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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
5 September 2003–28 April 2004

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2004

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCAEM	Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICT	information and communication technology
IT	information technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-EPOC	United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 5 September 2003 to 28 April 2004, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the fifth plenary meeting of its sixtieth session on 28 April 2004.

Chapter I

RESOLUTIONS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

60/1. Shanghai Declaration

60/2. Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health

60/3. Work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects

60/4. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

60/5. Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

60/6. Revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

60/7. Pacific Urban Agenda

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION (PHASE II)

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies held meetings: Committee on Emerging Social Issues, Committee on Poverty Reduction, Committee on Managing Globalization and Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

3. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II to the present report. The reports of those bodies reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

4. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 2003 are given in annex IV to the present report.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

5. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The sixtieth session of the Commission was held at the Shanghai International Convention Center, Shanghai, China, from 22 to 28 April 2004. The session comprised two segments. The senior officials' segment was held from 22 to 24 April 2004 and the ministerial segment from 26 to 28 April 2004.

7. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
Georgia
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkey
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam
Cook Islands
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China
Niue

8. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland attended. A representative of the Holy See also attended.

9. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Population Fund.

10. Officials from the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Regional Commissions New York Office also attended.

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Trade Organization.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: ASEAN Secretariat, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Colombo Plan Secretariat, Commonwealth of Independent States, Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Economic Cooperation Organization, European Union, International Organization for Migration, Mekong River Commission, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and Typhoon Committee Secretariat.

13. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Organization of Employers, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Muslim World League, World Assembly of Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations and World Muslim Congress; and from the following organizations

in special consultative status: Bahá'í International Community, International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises; and from the following organization on the roster: International Union of Railways.

14. Representatives of the All-China Youth Federation, Asian Institute for Rural Development, Christian Conference of Asia and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also attended the session.

15. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LX)/INF.1/Rev.2.

16. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Li Zhaoxing (China) Chairperson.

17. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: H.E. Mr. Sayed Ali Jawed (Afghanistan), H.E. Mr. Aghvan Vardanian (Armenia), H.E. Mr. Shamsaddin Khanbabayev (Azerbaijan), H.E. Mr. Mirza Tasadduk Hussain Beg (Bangladesh), H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk (Bhutan), H.E. Mr. Khy Tainglim (Cambodia), H.E. Mr. Shen Goufang (China), H.E. Ms. Salome Zouriabichvili (Georgia), H.E. Mr. Dipak Chatterjee (India), H.E. Mr. N. Hassan Wirajuda (Indonesia), H.E. Mr. Hamid Reza Baradaran Shoraka (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Mr. Masatoshi Abe (Japan), H.E. Mr. Kassymzhomart Tokaev (Kazakhstan), H.E. Mr. Askar Aitmatov (Kyrgyzstan), H.E. Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Hamdun Hameed (Maldives), Hon. Sebastian L. Anefal (Federated States of Micronesia), H.E. U Soe Tha (Myanmar), H.E. Mr. Shankar Prasad Sharma (Nepal), Hon. Sir Rabbie L. Namaliu (Papua New Guinea), H.E. Mr. Choi Young-jin (Republic of Korea), H.E. Mr. Yuri V. Fedotov (Russian Federation), Hon. Faumuina Liuga (Samoa), H.E. Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar (Sri Lanka), H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov (Tajikistan), H.E. Mr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan (Thailand), H.E. Ms. Ana Pessoa Pinto (Timor-Leste), H.E. Mr. Bokhodir Khalilov (Uzbekistan), Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil (Vanuatu) and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien (Viet Nam).

18. The senior officials' segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole. Committee of the Whole I elected Mr. Bayazid Mardukhi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairperson and Mr. Bhoj Raj Ghimire (Nepal) and Mr. Somsak Triamjangarun (Thailand) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Ms. Maria Lourdes Ramiro-Lopez (Philippines) Chairperson and H.E. Mr. Shahed Akhtar (Bangladesh) and Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected H.E. Mr. Sok Siphana (Cambodia) Chairperson and H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Q.T. Cakobau (Fiji) and Mr. Susantyo Sutoyo (Indonesia) Vice-Chairpersons.

19. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joseph Yun (United States of America) to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. Selwyn Das (Malaysia) and Mr. Asim Arar (Turkey) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

20. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
    - (a) Opening addresses;
    - (b) Election of officers;
    - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:
    - (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments;
    - (b) Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation.
3. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:
    - (a) Poverty reduction;
    - (b) Managing globalization;
    - (c) Emerging social issues.
4. Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries.
5. Programme planning and evaluation:
    - (a) Draft strategic framework for the period 2006-2007;
    - (b) Programme performance report for 2002-2003;
    - (c) Proposed programme changes for 2004-2005;
    - (d) Realignment of the work of the regional institutions.
6. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
7. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
8. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies.
9. Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-first session of the Commission.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

21. The ministerial segment of the sixtieth session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson of the fifty-ninth session, H.E. Mr. Moana Cacasses Kalosil (Vanuatu). The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered a statement. H.E. Mr. Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of China, delivered the inaugural address.

22. Following the inaugural session, a High-level Visionary Meeting for Asia and the Pacific 2020 was held in lieu of the Ministerial Round Table which was traditionally organized during the ministerial segment. The first phase of the High-level Visionary Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand. The following former heads of State/Government and representative of the host Government participated in the Meeting as panellists: H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen (former Vice-Premier of China), Hon. Sir Peter Kenilorea (former Prime Minister of Solomon Islands), H.E. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari (former President of Pakistan), H.E. Mr. Fidel Valdez Ramos (former President of the Philippines) and H.E. Ms. Jenny Shipley (former Prime Minister of New Zealand). The Executive Secretary of ESCAP acted as moderator of the Meeting during the second phase.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

23. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that ESCAP had provided its member States with sound analysis and other important services for more than half a century. In recent years, ESCAP had devoted a great deal of attention to the Millennium Development Goals. The signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network culminated a process carried out under ESCAP auspices and brought to fruition one of the region's long-held visions. ESCAP also had its own internal reform to keep pace with technological advances and changes in the global landscape. The Secretary-General congratulated ESCAP and its staff on their contributions to the well-being of people throughout the Asian and Pacific region.

24. The ESCAP region was likely to become an even greater engine of the world economy in the years ahead and had shown resilience and inclusiveness in responding to the challenges facing it, most notably the financial crisis of the late 1990s.

25. The Secretary-General noted that three challenges in particular warranted urgent attention: implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, environmental sustainability and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

26. The Monterrey Consensus had set a firm basis for national and regional efforts to promote financing for development. The ESCAP region enjoyed the highest rate of savings and reserves in the world. Steps should be taken to use those resources to reduce economic disparity and promote development.

27. With regard to environmental sustainability, he noted that the strain of becoming an economic powerhouse was evident in the region's shrinking forests, loss of biodiversity, persistent haze, desertification, local and transboundary air pollution and increase in human-induced disasters. Those indicators showed that the production and consumption of natural resources fuelling the region's development were unsustainable. Environmental stewardship should be given greater priority.

28. He expressed concern that more than 8 million people in the ESCAP region were now living with HIV/AIDS. If the disease was not controlled, it would not only devastate millions of lives but also impose great burdens on the region's health systems and use up the resources that were badly needed for social and economic development. From experience in other regions, it was known that the disease could be controlled when there was a coordinated response from all sectors of society and every branch of government.

29. In recent decades, more people had escaped from poverty in Asia and the Pacific than in any other part of the world. He urged the member States meeting in Shanghai, the birthplace of the Commission, to build on those accomplishments and bring the people of Asia and the Pacific into the circle of development and peace.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

30. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed gratitude to the Vice-President of China for inaugurating the session. He also expressed his appreciation to the Government of China and to the Shanghai Municipal People's Government for hosting the session.

31. He noted that the sixtieth session of ESCAP had attracted the largest-ever gathering of government officials and leaders from Asia and the Pacific. Shanghai had been the birthplace of ESCAP in 1947 under its former name, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

32. The Asian and Pacific region was changing rapidly in economic and social terms. The notion of the "Asia-Pacific Century" was predicated on the assumption that the region would be the centre of economic growth and technological innovation in the twenty-first century. The ESCAP region accounted for two thirds of the world's population. Their growing needs, translated into market demand, access to goods, services, capital and technology, and equitable social development, would present the world economy with an unprecedented opportunity. However, the region's enormous size and diversity would present social challenges on a commensurate scale.

33. He was confident that the reforms undertaken by ESCAP had prepared it to meet those new challenges

in a more balanced but focused and efficient manner. Institutional reform was a process, and never an end itself. ESCAP would undertake new initiatives to renew and revitalize its endeavours continuously in order to meet the needs of the region.

34. The current session of the Commission had been prepared as part of the process of reform, review and renewal of ESCAP undertaken over the previous three years by the secretariat and member States for the historic path of Asian and Pacific development towards 2020. It had been prepared amid the far-reaching changes that had accompanied the beginning of a new century in which regional cooperation and integration were recognized as necessary components of the global quest for peace, parity and prosperity.

35. With the support of the member Governments, ESCAP would continue to respond to the new economic challenges and new social requirements of the region.

Inaugural address by the Vice-President of China

36. The Vice-President of China, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of China, extended a warm welcome to those attending the session.

37. He noted that fundamental changes had taken place in the people's livelihood and the country's outlook. More than half a century earlier, the Asian and Pacific region had been a scene of destruction and devastation in the wake of wars. The region, now booming vigorously, had changed beyond recognition. It had become one of the fastest-growing regions and had the greatest potential in the world.

38. Peace and development remained the theme of the times. The Asian and Pacific region was facing both huge opportunities for growth and grim challenges that needed to be met through concerted efforts.

39. He referred to a number of challenges that the region had been facing in recent years. The first was building political mutual trust and safeguarding peace and stability. A new security concept should be devised featuring peaceful coexistence, mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, a concept that would conform to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the realities of the Asian and Pacific region and the world.

40. He emphasized that multilateralism, based on the principles of mutual respect, harmony and seeking common ground, while shelving differences, should be upheld.

41. He stressed that strengthening mutual coordination for common development should be pursued. Countries were entitled to choose modes of development according to their respective national conditions and to create a favourable external environment for development by enhancing coordination, exchanges and cooperation with each other in all fields of economic and social development. Efforts needed to be made to strike a balance between economic growth and social progress, town and country, and man and nature, in order to achieve sustainable development in the region.

42. Deepening regional cooperation and opening up to the outside world were required. Regional cooperation was an important way to safeguard regional peace and realize common prosperity. While strengthening regional cooperation, opening to the entire world and carrying out extensive global cooperation must be pursued. Advocating harmony and maintaining the diversity of the world would be an intertwined process.

43. China's economic growth was closely linked to that of the Asian and Pacific region. Twenty-five years of reform and opening up in China had resulted in an annual GDP growth rate of 9.4 per cent and a relatively comfortable life for the Chinese people on the whole. In the year 2003, China had suffered from such disasters and difficulties as the SARS epidemic. Through strenuous efforts, China's GDP had still risen by 9.1 per cent year on year, totalling US$ 1.4 trillion, and per capita GDP had exceeded US$ 1,000.

44. China had embarked on a path of peaceful development. A most simple and clear explanation of that path was that in the current era, whose theme was peace and development, China, as a socialist country, had decided to follow the path of seeking development while safeguarding and contributing to world peace through its own development. It was in the Chinese tradition to regard peace as the best option, to seek harmony but not uniformity and to act on the tenet "Don't do to others what you don't want others to do to you". In modern history, the Chinese nation had suffered enormously from bullying and oppression by big Powers. Through its experience, it was deeply convinced that power politics led to militarism and hegemony seekers had no popular support. China would never seek hegemony, at present or in the future, no matter how well developed it became.

45. That path of peaceful development featured coordinated domestic development and opening up. China was a developing country with a population of nearly 1.3 billion and was faced with numerous difficulties. Its per capita GDP ranked only 111th in the world. It would require the unremitting efforts of generations to come to achieve development, rejuvenation, modernization and the common prosperity of all the Chinese people. In that historical process, both internal stability and a peaceful international environment would be needed. China would adhere unswervingly to the central task of achieving economic development but at the same time uphold peace and cooperation in its foreign policy and work with all peoples to promote the lofty cause of peace and development.

46. Participation in economic globalization in accordance with the principles of independence, and seeking advantages while avoiding disadvantages,

would help to integrate China's development with regional invigoration, with the interests of people of all countries and with the cause of peace and development of mankind.

47. The Asian and Pacific region was home to more than half the world's population. Peace and development in the region would benefit not only the people in the region but also the whole world. It was the fixed goal of the Government of China to promote peace, stability, development and prosperity in the Asian and Pacific region. China would continue to pursue the policy of building neighbourly relationships and partnerships with its neighbours, and contribute to peace and development in the region.

48. He stressed that ESCAP, as the only comprehensive intergovernmental economic and social organization of the United Nations in the Asian and Pacific region, had made an important contribution to the promotion of regional economic and social development and had played a unique role in facilitating regional cooperation, economic integration, active participation in economic globalization and addressing all kinds of global and regional emergencies and public crises. The Government of China would, as always, attach great importance to ESCAP and support its work.

Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

49. The Executive Secretary began by expressing his sincere gratitude to the Government and people of China and to the Shanghai Municipal People's Government for hosting the Commission session. He informed the Commission that developing countries of the ESCAP region had grown faster in 2003 than the global economy as well as other groups of developing countries, and prospects for 2004 and beyond were positive. However, despite the region's robust economic growth, poverty remained a significant challenge for many countries in the region. It was thus crucial that well-designed national strategies for poverty reduction be put in place and that the international community contribute to such national efforts wholeheartedly.

50. The theme study for 2004, "Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation", had examined the different forms of cooperation existing in the region. The study had concluded that, in the fields of trade and transport, regional cooperation should seek to harmonize the fragmented nature of existing initiatives and bring to fruition the long-standing proposals relating to the Asian Highway network and the Trans-Asian Railway. In the fields of information and communication technology and finance, the study had recommended building an Asia-Pacific information society and formulating a regional road map aimed at establishing more efficient financial markets.

51. The secretariat continued to focus attention on its three thematic areas. Under the theme of poverty reduction, the key focus was on assisting Governments in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Work on the second phase of the joint ESCAP/UNDP project on supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific had begun. In addition, a regional action plan on improving poverty statistics and monitoring was being implemented, while the concerns of the least developed countries, where poverty remained an ongoing challenge, were being addressed in the work of the Commission and in ESCAP's technical cooperation activities.

52. In response to the Secretary-General's Global Compact, the Commission at its current session had successfully held the inaugural meetings of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum and the ESCAP Business Advisory Council. Over 250 business leaders had participated in those meetings in order to discuss new trade and investment opportunities in the region and establish sustainable mechanisms for engaging the private sector in order to enhance the impact of ESCAP's work in the region.

53. The Executive Secretary observed that, in the context of globalization, ESCAP would continue to provide technical assistance to countries in formulating and implementing comprehensive trade policies that would enable them to participate more effectively in both the multilateral and regional trading systems. In the field of the environment, ESCAP was working on strategic interventions, such as providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships to achieve sustainable development. ESCAP was also preparing for the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, scheduled for March 2005.

54. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, in November 2003, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network had been adopted and a demonstration run of a container block train between the Port of Tianjin and Ulaanbaatar had been organized. In addition, to further strengthen existing initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of landlocked and transit developing countries, the secretariat had formulated the Asian Action Plan, which provided an input to the Almaty Programme of Action agreed in August 2003.

55. Under the theme of emerging social issues, ESCAP had adopted the Shanghai Implementation Strategy: Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999. Furthermore, in the first year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, with support from the Government of Japan and the China Disabled Persons' Federation, the secretariat had convened a number of meetings to assist members in developing a unified Asian and Pacific position on a proposed international convention on the protection and

promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. In addition, ESCAP's work on health and development was focusing on the adoption of a regional strategy covering such issues as hunger, HIV/AIDS and the socio-economic implications of epidemics such as SARS and avian influenza.

56. The Executive Secretary concluded by saying that, in developing its programme of work, the ESCAP secretariat would continue to respond to new situations and new requirements in line with the dynamic environment of the region.

Implications of recent economic and social developments

57. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues" (E/ESCAP/1304) and the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2004* (ST/ESCAP/2312). The Commission commended the quality and comprehensive nature of the documentation prepared by the secretariat.

58. The Commission noted that, despite SARS and the war in Iraq in 2003, the economic performance of the developing countries in the region had shown an improvement over 2002. ESCAP developing countries had once more enjoyed robust growth and, as in 2002, the region had been the fastest-growing group of developing economies in the world.

59. Growth had been the result mainly of forces within the region, such as intraregional trade and strong domestic demand. Those developments had given rise to optimism and confidence for the future and the prospects for 2004 and beyond indicated a continuation of those trends. However, it was important not to become complacent as risks arising from higher energy prices and volatile financial markets could adversely affect short-term prospects.

60. The most pressing long-term challenge facing the region was that of poverty, and poverty eradication had to be given the highest priority. Despite relatively strong economic growth over a number of years in several countries in the region, poverty continued to be a persistent problem and the quality of life of the poor had not seen an improvement commensurate with the pace of economic growth in some countries. There was a need to integrate economic and social development on a sustainable basis since development involved an intertwining of social and economic factors. Economic growth was a vital indicator of development and provided the financial means to attain social goals, but it was not the only indicator, or the only goal, of development.

61. The Commission attached the highest priority to the daunting tasks of poverty eradication and improvement in the quality of life of the 800 million people in the ESCAP region who still lived in extreme poverty. It recognized that poverty eradication required not just economic growth, but also good governance, and that it could benefit from increased regional cooperation whereby countries learned from each other through the sharing of experiences and good practices.

62. The Commission noted that national efforts were the most appropriate means of reducing poverty, and integrated national strategies would be needed to eradicate poverty. Such strategies would have to focus upon generating additional employment, creating productive assets, especially through the development of SMEs, imparting technical and entrepreneurial skills and raising the income levels of the poor on a targeted basis. The Commission noted that SMEs could play a very significant role in economic growth and the delivery of essential goods and services to the poor. Efforts would also have to be made in the area of human resources development through the provision of wider educational facilities for the poor.

63. The Commission expressed appreciation for the secretariat's efforts to promote public-private partnerships and develop models of such partnerships that could bring basic services to the poor. The Commission also expressed appreciation for the support of the Government of the Netherlands for ESCAP's first undertaking to promote the provision of basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships, the so-called "5P" project. The model which ESCAP had developed was another example of the added value of regional development cooperation in the era of globalization.

64. The Commission recognized the importance of human security, which needed to be promoted through community-building and human development to protect and enhance the capabilities of every human being.

65. The Commission noted that globalization affected all, both rich and poor, urban and rural populations, but not all alike. It recognized that the majority of the population and most of the poor in the region still lived in the rural areas and that they often did not benefit from globalization. Disparities between urban and rural areas were in fact growing and there was a need to connect rural areas to urban centres to give the rural population access to basic services and the benefits of globalization. The Commission was informed that, in small island States, the cost of transport between the capital and outer islands continued to be an obstacle to accessing services.

66. The Commission noted with satisfaction the significant role being played by ESCAP in promoting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals[1] in the region. The Commission commended the secretariat's work in the area of poverty reduction, where the secretariat focused its assistance on achieving the Goals. It noted with appreciation the launching of the second phase of the ESCAP-UNDP joint initiative on promoting the achievement of the Goals and

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[1] In this context, reference is made to the internationally agreed development goals, as contained in the Millennium Declaration.

recommended that ESCAP intensify its efforts with special emphasis on the needs of the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the Pacific island developing countries and territories.

67. While several countries had made important strides in reducing poverty, bridging the gender gap in primary and secondary education and reducing child mortality, important challenges still lay ahead in achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, requiring concerted efforts at both the national and international levels. The Commission welcomed the commendable work done by several "Millennium Development Goals-plus" countries, such as Malaysia and Thailand, in sharing their experience and expertise with other countries in accelerating the pace towards achieving the Goals. It noted with satisfaction that several countries had begun the process of mainstreaming the Goals into their national poverty reduction plans and programmes.

68. Recognizing that economic indicators did not always reflect the reality of people's lives or explain the reasons for underdevelopment, the Commission encouraged the secretariat to study alternative standard measures of poverty and assist in the design of more effective indicators of development. It urged the secretariat to take those elements into consideration in its work.

69. In addition to meeting the challenge of poverty, the pursuit of sound economic policies in a volatile international economic environment posed significant short-term issues for Governments at the domestic level. Countries were endeavouring to achieve macroeconomic stability by reducing budget deficits and instituting targets for reducing debt-GDP ratios to sustainable levels. Side by side, the liberalization of the capital account of the balance of payments was being gradually achieved. Other policy initiatives in which progress was being made included the building of stronger and more efficient banking systems and strengthening the overall institutional structure of the domestic economy.

70. The Commission noted that poverty reduction efforts had been affected by globalization as countries sought to integrate into the global economic system. Globalization had made the domestic economy in many countries more vulnerable to external shocks and international competition for markets had become more intense. In those circumstances, given their level of development, limited competitiveness and shortage of capital, developing countries were more vulnerable to international economic trends and developments.

71. Some delegations observed that there was no substitute for good policies and good governance in meeting the challenges of globalization. It was stated that the way in which countries managed their internal affairs, including respect for human rights, the rule of law and social equity, influenced the extent to which people benefited from globalization. Other delegations observed that there were additional factors involved in meeting the challenges of globalization, including an increased flow of development assistance, transfer of technology, terms of trade, increased market access and removal of non-tariff barriers.

72. The Commission agreed that many least developed countries in particular lacked the necessary human and financial capital and institutions to enable them to reap the benefits of globalization and protect the poor. For those countries, technical assistance in restructuring and institutional development from the developed countries would be useful.

73. The Commission stressed that ESCAP should use its comparative advantage and enhance its ability to assist countries within its three thematic areas through technical assistance and capacity-building activities. In particular, ESCAP should strengthen coordination and partnership with other organizations, including other multilateral bodies, to assist member countries in achieving greater cooperation by analysing and providing access to relevant cross-country experiences.

74. The Commission recognized that sustainable development involved consistency in its economic, social and environmental dimensions at all levels. It noted with concern the accelerated degradation of the environment, which posed a grave threat to mankind. It stressed the importance of global governance and regional cooperation as an effective mechanism for tackling environmental challenges. It recognized that the regional commissions, including ESCAP, had a strategic role to play by promoting follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields, such as the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

75. The Commission recognized the efforts of the secretariat to develop regional and subregional cooperation in energy, water and the environment, among other areas. It also noted the need to promote new energy cooperation mechanisms in the region to facilitate the diversification of energy resources in ensuring future economic growth.

76. The Commission noted the concerns of Pacific island States on the impact of the rise in sea level, resulting from climate change and environmental degradation, which threatened their existence. It stressed the need for greater regional cooperation to address those concerns and urged the secretariat to integrate environmental and climate change issues into its work programmes.

77. Pacific island developing countries and territories continued to face constraints and challenges associated with their remoteness and limited productive base. Despite the islands' small populations, rapid urbanization was having a significant environmental impact and creating policy challenges for central and local governments in the subregion. The Commission therefore welcomed the call to support the Pacific Urban Agenda, the revitalization of UN-EPOC and the establishment of a Pacific advisory council to enhance consultation and focus on development priorities in the

Pacific subregion. It was important to ensure that the vulnerability of small island developing countries and least developed countries was taken into consideration in important decisions. The Commission recognized the need for strengthened subregional cooperation, particularly with respect to integration of the Millennium Development Goals[1] into national policy and planning processes.

78. The Commission acknowledged the leading role played by ESCAP in the implementation of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, which included a component on the rational use of energy and water, aimed at deepening their mutual cooperation and promoting their economic development and integration into the world economy. Noting the serious water shortage and drought in some ESCAP subregions and the potential impact on climate change, the Commission requested the secretariat to expand its activities on water resource management in the region at the request of the member countries. It also noted a request by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the establishment of a United Nations-affiliated centre for disaster management in Asia and the Pacific and its readiness to cooperate in the establishment of such a centre.

79. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2005 and its request to ESCAP members and associate members for their support in that regard.

80. The Commission emphasized that the Asian and Pacific region had made significant progress in social development to accompany its impressive economic growth. Nevertheless, a number of social issues had emerged or been exacerbated in the context of rapid globalization. Unemployment and underemployment, especially among youth, remained an obstacle to development. The search for improved employment and earning opportunities was leading to an increased level of international migration; however, much of that was illegal, which left migrants in a vulnerable position. Trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children, was increasing. The Commission noted that the rural population had benefited less than the urban population from the changes wrought by globalization.

81. The Commission called for greater regional cooperation in addressing and limiting the spread of infectious diseases. It noted that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS was a growing threat to the economic and social development of the region and urged concerted action against the pandemic.

82. The recent outbreaks of SARS and avian influenza had highlighted how infectious diseases in a modern globalized environment, characterized by international travel and trade, could rapidly affect economic and social stability. Some Governments informed the Commission of measures that they had introduced, with valuable regional and interregional cooperation, to contain and eradicate infectious diseases, such as avian influenza. The Commission appreciated the contribution that some ESCAP members had made, such as the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative (2000), and their contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

83. The Commission noted that, for most countries in the region, non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer, including tobacco-related cancer, as well as injuries, had become major killers that had a negative impact on productivity and economic growth. It was proposed that ESCAP tackle those health and development issues as seriously as better-known diseases such as tuberculosis, dengue fever and malaria.

84. The Commission proposed that ESCAP play an active role in monitoring and building immunity against current and future threats to health and development, by such means as reinforcing public health capacity-building to strengthen response mechanisms, among other things. Underpinning the mechanisms designed to respond to outbreaks of such infectious diseases was the effective functioning of health systems. In emphasizing the importance of regional and interregional cooperation in managing risks to health, the Commission urged the secretariat to give priority in its future work programmes to strengthening health systems, with a view to erecting a solid "firewall" for people's health and economic growth in the region.

85. The Commission welcomed the pledge by WHO to extend its full support and active technical cooperation to ESCAP to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the health-related goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, possibly through an ESCAP-WHO initiative to mainstream health concerns in strategies and programmes related to the management of globalization and poverty reduction. The inaugural session of the Subcommittee on Health and Development, to be held at Bangkok from 1 to 3 December 2004, would provide an important forum for finance, planning and health officials to consider the details of such an initiative. Furthermore, consideration could be given to convening an Asia-Pacific high-level health forum to promote regional cooperation for a "Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020".

86. The Commission stressed that it was necessary to mainstream gender issues in economic and social development. It emphasized that equal access to education, employment and decision-making was particularly important in that regard.

87. The Commission stressed that rapid population ageing was occurring in most countries of the region but that, in many cases, systems of income security and health care remained inadequate. It called on the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in implementing global and regional plans of action in the social field, particularly on gender issues, population ageing and disability.

88. The Commission commended the Executive Secretary and the staff of the secretariat on the revitalization of the secretariat and its focus on the three thematic areas of poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues in its work programme.

89. The Commission welcomed the Shanghai Declaration and expressed the hope that it would be fully implemented to ensure the economic and social development of the region.

Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation

90. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1305 and a publication entitled *Meeting the Challenges in an Era of Globalization by Strengthening Regional Development Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/2319). It commended the secretariat on the in-depth research reflected in the quality documentation on meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation. It recognized that globalization had made it possible for resources, such as capital and technology and productive factors, to move freely around the world, thus providing countries with tremendous opportunities to develop their economies.

91. However, globalization and trade liberalization had not necessarily improved or corrected persistent disparities between and within countries. It had imposed numerous challenges, particularly on those in developing countries. The challenges included job losses, rising income disparity, the digital divide, acceleration of environmental degradation and the rise of transnational issues.

92. The Commission noted that there was an urban bias in the benefits of globalization. Thus, the overwhelming majority of the people of the region who lived in the rural areas did not benefit equitably from globalization. The Commission emphasized that the integration and harmonization of bilateral and regional arrangements must add value to life not only in cities across the region, but also in its villages.

93. At the national level, the effective management of globalization would require viable economic regimes that facilitated economic growth, effective social policies to support people's empowerment and social safety nets for vulnerable groups, and good governance structures.

94. The Commission recognized that meeting the challenges of globalization and achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration could not be done at the national level alone. Concerted regional and global efforts would also be required to implement fully the many international declarations and programmes of action.

95. The Commission observed that globalization had become a reality, leaving countries with little choice but to manage it as best they could. In that regard, the issue that needed to be addressed was how to assist those countries and vulnerable groups that had not benefited from globalization.

96. Regional cooperation could serve as an effective mechanism for combining forces to tackle transnational problems, assist those countries that were unable to cope with globalization problems on their own and spread the benefits and costs of globalization more equitably. It would also enhance policy coordination among diverse countries and areas, strengthen their risk preparedness and help to foster a more favourable environment for comprehensive development in the region.

97. The Commission felt that effective and harmonized regional and subregional coordination was central to addressing poverty in the Asian and Pacific region, where two thirds of the world's poor lived. It recognized that ESCAP could play an important role in assisting member States in enhancing South-South cooperation in various forms. ESCAP should develop modalities aimed at promoting the integration of subregional institutions, especially in the fields of trade and investment, finance, transport and tourism.

98. The Commission noted the steady progress that had been made in various regional cooperation efforts, including comprehensive economic partnerships, in the Asian and Pacific region. It further noted that, while globalization was making headway and interdependency on a global scale was increasing, the threats to mankind were becoming more wide-ranging and deeper and took such forms as terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in human beings and illegal drugs.

99. The Commission underscored the primacy of the multilateral trading system. It considered that a universal, fair, open, predictable, rule-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system was a crucial component in managing globalization. It noted the view that precise, effective and operational special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries was an integral part of the outcome of multilateral trade negotiations.

100. In expressing appreciation to the secretariat, the Commission requested it to continue its technical assistance to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to increase their capacity to effectively participate in and benefit from the multilateral trading system as well as regional and bilateral trade agreements.

101. The Commission congratulated Cambodia and Nepal on their accession to WTO and requested the secretariat to continue its technical assistance and capacity-building programmes on accession to WTO for those members and associate members of ESCAP that had not yet become members of the Organization.

102. The Commission noted that the growth of intraregional trade accounted for a substantial share of the overall trade growth of the economies of the region. It observed that the establishment of regional, subregional, intersubregional and bilateral economic cooperation and integration initiatives could further promote trade.

103. While noting that such initiatives could lead to the further marginalization of some developing countries, the Commission called on the secretariat to explore ways of making such arrangements serve as building blocks of the multilateral trading system. It requested the secretariat to accord high priority to formulating a comprehensive region-wide trade cooperation framework. There was a view that ESCAP should facilitate dialogue among diverse subregional trade and financial organizations, particularly ASEAN, the Economic Cooperation Organization, SAARC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Another view was that further discussions should be held among members of regional and subregional groupings prior to the initiation of such dialogue.

104. The Commission noted that, with the phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement, there was a need to accelerate regional economic cooperation and develop national competitiveness and the productivity of the textile and clothing sector. In that context, the Commission was informed of the ASEAN initiatives towards greater integration of the sector.

105. The Commission observed that, despite the initiatives which various developing countries had taken to liberalize and facilitate trade and investment and build national supply-side capacities, including the development of SMEs, much work remained to be done. In that context, it requested the secretariat to continue its technical assistance to the developing countries of the region.

106. The Commission commended the secretariat's commitment to developing sustainable intermodal transport systems that delivered more efficient domestic transport services, while at the same time providing access to a wider domestic hinterland and international markets.

107. The Commission commended the secretariat on the efforts that had resulted in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, adopted in November 2003 after years of consensus-building. For the first time, 32 countries had made a formal commitment to the linkages and alignment of highways totalling over 140,000 km. It noted that the network, whose main corridor extended from Japan through the rest of Asia to Europe, formed a modern version of the historic Silk Road. It welcomed the signing of the Agreement by 26 Governments on the occasion of the sixtieth session.

108. It also noted with appreciation the preparations for an intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network. The cross-border highway and railway efforts represented fine practical examples of regional cooperation. The Commission observed that, thus far, those endeavours only connected cities across the region and should be expanded to link villages with cities, thereby facilitating the integration of the poor into the globalization process.

109. The Commission noted that the Asian Highway Agreement would require the harmonization of laws, to ensure the safe movement of traffic. It further noted that, once they were fully developed, the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway would, in addition to contributing to prosperity, also generate social consequences by expediting the greater movement of people across borders. It would be important to anticipate the social implications, including the health dimensions, attendant on transport-related development.

110. The Commission acknowledged the considerable potential for providing transit transport, particularly for landlocked countries in the ESCAP region. It highlighted the need to address the issue of transport facilitation.

111. The Commission stressed the importance of ICT as a tool for creating, disseminating and utilizing knowledge. It was also an important tool for narrowing the development gap and facilitating the integration of developing countries into the global economy. In that context, ICT was recognized as a major driving force of globalization, an integral component of poverty alleviation programmes and a means of improving the quality of life and reducing rural-urban development disparities.

112. The Commission recognized the important role of the secretariat in facilitating regional cooperation towards the creation of the information society, including South-South initiatives facilitated by the secretariat and the provision of technical assistance through ICT training. Two delegations called upon the secretariat to expand its efforts towards effective coordination with ICT-related institutions to maximize the efficient use of limited resources and avoid duplication of activities; one delegation referred to the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in that context. In that regard, the Commission requested the secretariat to continue to play a key role in fostering synergies and partnerships in the region that would assist countries, particularly the least developed among them.

113. The Commission emphasized the importance of satellite communications to provide more affordable access and increase connectivity in rural and remote locations. It supported the secretariat's initiative on capacity-building in areas related to space technology applications covering health, education, natural resources management, food security, disaster management and community empowerment through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

114. The Commission observed that some countries of the region had introduced measures designed to facilitate movement towards the information society.

Among those measures were ICT capacity-building efforts to bridge the digital divide, policy development and the application of ICT in socio-economic development, including tele-health and distance learning programmes.

115. With regard to the creation of a regional information society in line with the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Commission expressed appreciation for the formulation, by the Regional Inter-Agency Working Group on ICT, of a regional road map towards the information society and requested the secretariat to develop a concrete work plan to reduce the digital divide. It also requested the secretariat to develop a major ICT network project, on a medium- to long-term basis, to cover sectors that included tele-medicine, agriculture and education.

116. Some delegations expressed support for the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host an Asia-Pacific centre for ICT for development, to build ICT capacity. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Kyrgyzstan to host a subregional conference on follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and invited ESCAP members and associate members to participate actively in the conference.

117. The Commission noted that uneven development of financial markets and access to capital in Asia and the Pacific had a negative impact on the financing of SMEs, which were increasingly playing a prominent role in the regional economy. It also noted that, while the foreign exchange reserves of the region totalled over half of the world's aggregate, they were often deposited outside the Asian and Pacific region and thus created wealth elsewhere.

118. The Commission acknowledged the need for a new financial architecture, such as an Asian bond fund and an Asian bond market, to use regional savings for Asian investment. It expressed the belief that the proposed financial architecture would benefit not only the development of each Asian country, but also that of the region as a whole. It would thus enhance the capability of the region to become a stronger partner for other regions and contribute to international financial stability.

119. The Commission called for the establishment of a fully-fledged regional mechanism that was integrated into the world financial system, to mobilize domestic and international resources in support of financing for development. The view was expressed that the issue of the establishment of an Asian monetary fund deserved further consideration. Moreover, it would also be necessary to utilize the potential of the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation.

120. The Commission felt that development financing was one of the most critical issues in international cooperation. The Monterrey Consensus marked the beginning of a new era of partnership on financing for development among developed and developing countries. National Governments had a key role to play in the mobilization of domestic resources by exercising good governance and fiscal discipline, implementing sound macroeconomic policies, promoting adherence to the rule of law and ensuring political stability. The Commission recognized the importance of a stable international environment in which the proposed new financial architecture could support and promote growth and development.

121. The Commission commended the secretariat on organizing the first Asia-Pacific Business Forum, in conjunction with the Commission session, as an effective tool for constructive public-private sector dialogue and partnership and an appropriate regional initiative in response to the Secretary-General's Global Compact. The economic success of many countries in the region was a striking example of the crucial role that the business sector played in development. The Commission expressed appreciation for the proposal of the secretariat that the Business Forum be organized as an annual event during Commission sessions, to enhance the impact of ESCAP's work in the region and involve the private sector more closely in efforts towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

122. In adopting the Shanghai Declaration in its resolution 60/1, the Commission expressed the hope that the Declaration would be a milestone for deepening cooperation among the countries and territories of the Asian and Pacific region.

Emerging issues and developments at the regional level

Poverty reduction

123. The Commission considered and endorsed the report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its first session (E/ESCAP/1306). In its deliberations, it noted that the region was home to about 800 million of the world's 1.2 billion poor, which was a clear indication of the challenge the region was facing. It pointed to the need to harness the power and potential of globalization to enhance development and eradicate poverty, and to the dire global consequences of persistent poverty and unfulfilled expectations.

124. The Commission attached the highest priority to the reduction of poverty, particularly among people in rural, mountainous and remote areas and those living in poverty owing to conflicts and natural disasters. It emphasized the complexity of poverty reduction in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which required special attention and the support of donors in conformity with commitments set out in the Monterrey Consensus and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It urged ESCAP to use the opportunity

afforded by the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in June 2004, the theme of which was "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010", to present the true scope of poverty in Asia and the Pacific in order to attract the attention of donor countries and forge partnerships.

125. The Commission observed that, while the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals[1] was the primary responsibility of the countries concerned, poverty reduction required an enabling international economic environment, an effective and deepening development partnership between developed and developing countries in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus and based on equality and mutual interest, favourable conditions for the expansion of trade and improved access to capital markets. Some representatives highlighted the need to reform the international financial architecture in a manner that substantially captured the concerns of developing countries. The Commission requested the secretariat to organize a high-level meeting with representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions to engage in policy dialogue and explore practicable cooperative arrangements. In addition, it urged the secretariat to encourage all countries to meet their commitments as set out in the Monterrey Consensus and stressed the importance of operational and coordinative linkages between major United Nations bodies and multilateral entities.

126. The Commission noted with satisfaction the role played by ESCAP in helping the countries of the region to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,[1] but observed that, while the region as a whole might be able to reach the goal set for poverty reduction by 2015, many countries, particularly the least developed and landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, might miss the poverty reduction target. It cautioned that the region was also likely to miss the targets under other Goals, such as gender issues, particularly those related to empowering women, reducing child and maternal mortality, preventing drug and substance abuse, combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and promoting environmental sustainability. It urged the countries of the region and their development partners, including ESCAP, to further strengthen their efforts to accelerate the pace of achieving the Goals. Countries should also develop national plans to achieve the Goals.

127. The Commission noted with appreciation the poverty reduction strategies, plans and programmes adopted by the countries of the region to reduce poverty and achieve the Goals. However, given the magnitude of the challenges faced in that respect, it called for the adoption of a comprehensive approach with greater emphasis on better access to financial and non-financial resources, human security, increased investments in health and education, empowerment of women, better governance, rural development, environmental protection, social protection, enhanced participation of all stakeholders and more effective partnerships between Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other civil society entities.

128. The Commission called for the strengthening of ESCAP's capacity to address the issues of poverty reduction and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experiences and build a database of good and innovative practices in poverty reduction. It commended the secretariat on the project on the replication of best practices in rural community development which ESCAP was implementing with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea. It urged the secretariat to foster regional cooperation for poverty reduction. Several delegations requested ESCAP to provide assistance in poverty reduction through capacity-building, the sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and technical cooperation. The Commission urged the secretariat to assist developing and least developed countries in mobilizing resources and making them more accessible to the poor. It expressed appreciation for ESCAP's support under the Third Country Training Programme, which enabled officials to receive training in a third country, and pointed to the need for capacity-building in the targeting of poverty groups and the monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction projects and programmes. It noted the efforts to revitalize the CGPRT Centre.

129. The Commission acknowledged that sustained economic growth and a socially oriented economic policy with a focus on the needs of the poorest groups were key elements of any poverty reduction strategy. While noting the links between rapid economic growth and poverty reduction, it recognized that poverty reduction required an integrated and broad-based approach that incorporated macroeconomic and microeconomic, social and human, intergenerational and environmental dimensions, as well as structural reforms. It recognized the importance of self-reliance and human security, which could be achieved through the empowerment of each individual. It noted that poverty reduction was only sustainable if it was based on income- and employment-generation programmes that actively involved and empowered the poor, made use of community-based organizations and targeted population groups living in extreme poverty.

130. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The Fund's mission was to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty as they perceived it and its focus was on agriculture and rural development in disadvantaged and marginal rural areas. The Fund sought to expand collaboration with Governments and civil society in the region. The Commission noted that domestic public expenditure for the rural sector had declined in many developing countries, that currently only about 8 per cent of ODA was directed to agriculture and that there was an urgent need to reverse that trend. It urged countries to pay greater attention to

the centrality of agriculture and rural development for national development. It noted the importance of good governance, increased food security and the improvement of nutritional levels, access to minimum basic services and financial resources, and adequate housing for the poor.

131. The Commission highlighted the need to synchronize poverty reduction programmes in rural and urban areas because of the importance of rural-urban linkages, migration and urbanization. High rates of rural-urban migration placed enormous pressure on urban systems, causing problems for urban planning, management and governance, in particular in large cities. It observed that poverty reduction should concentrate on the generation of employment in the rural non-farm sector, on a productive expansion of the urban informal sector and on the promotion of other employment-intensive sectors. It recognized that local governments could play a key role in poverty reduction. It heard statements by delegations about their good and innovative practices and programmes to reduce poverty through the strengthening of microcredit institutions, upgrading of squatter settlements, promotion of SMEs, development of women's entrepreneurship, enhancement of social safety nets and promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism.

132. The Commission welcomed ESCAP's work to promote the use of ICT for rural poverty reduction, but stressed that it required a balanced approach, which included training for the rural poor to apply ICT productively, as they would otherwise not be able to take advantage of the new technology. It pointed out that ICT could narrow and bridge the digital divide at the regional and global levels, in developing and least developed countries. It recognized ICT as a channel for enhancing market access by the poor, for the improvement of social service delivery in remote areas and for life-long learning. It recommended the promotion of public-private partnerships for the provision of basic services as an important approach to poverty alleviation.

133. The Commission endorsed the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Poverty Reduction, including those in the area of poverty measurement. It welcomed the efforts being made to develop data for measuring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,[1] which included work at the national level to enhance the quality of poverty indicators through improved household expenditure surveys and the compilation of regular income distribution data.

134. The Commission recognized the importance of good-quality statistical data for determining accurately the effectiveness of economic growth policies and poverty reduction programmes. Sound statistical information was necessary for formulating poverty reduction policies and for monitoring their effects, as well as for reducing wastage in resource utilization on poverty reduction programmes; in that regard, good data production was to be seen as an investment rather than a cost.

135. The Commission concurred with the view of the Committee on Poverty Reduction that sound poverty measurement at the country level depended on the national statistical system as a whole, requiring, inter alia, close collaboration between the national statistical office, other agencies handling administrative data on poverty and the users of poverty data. While there was value in providing users with access to microdata, care was needed to provide a strong legal basis for the protection of confidentiality. The importance of general standards on the dissemination of statistical information was noted in the context of the transparent disclosure of data sources and the creation of user-friendly statistical products.

136. The Commission noted that many developing countries were still limited in terms of statistical operations, technologies and capabilities, including the ability to use data for policy purposes. It commended the secretariat on its support to countries in strengthening national capacity in statistics, including poverty measurement. It supported the formulation of a regional action plan to improve poverty statistics and monitoring in the ESCAP region and noted that, at its first session, the Subcommittee on Statistics, meeting after the session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction, had directed the secretariat to develop a revised action plan. The plan should be designed, among other things, to make coordination between international agencies on poverty statistics more meaningful and effective.

137. The Commission urged the secretariat to ensure that all information was available to different users and to continue to play an active role in implementing a wide range of statistical capacity-building measures, through such means as advisory services, technical workshops, policy discussions, enhanced training activities in collaboration with SIAP, and the scaling up of best practices in poverty statistics. In the latter respect, the secretariat was encouraged to make substantial contributions to the handbook on poverty statistics being prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, which would include sound concepts, methods and practices in that field. In addition, the Commission suggested that the secretariat take advantage of ICT initiatives to enhance statistical capabilities.

138. The importance of international standard methodologies and techniques in the compilation of poverty statistics and indicators was highlighted by the Commission. Indicators based on different methodologies and assumptions might lead to different interpretations of the data; for example, the "one dollar a day" measure used by the World Bank yielded different results from the national poverty lines of individual developing countries. The Commission urged the secretariat to collaborate with the United Nations Statistics Division and international agencies to

make efforts to produce more accurate and objective data for the measurement of the Millennium Development Goals.[1] The secretariat was also urged to study alternative measures of poverty and assist in the design of more effective indicators of development.

Managing globalization

139. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1307-1309 and E/ESCAP/1328 and 1329. It commended the secretariat on the quality of the documents.

Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization and progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization

140. The Commission observed that globalization represented a great challenge that demanded a holistic approach to the issues and their management. It acknowledged with appreciation and satisfaction the Committee's role in strengthening the capabilities of countries in the region to formulate and implement the policies and strategies that would be required if they were to benefit more fully from the globalization process and alleviate poverty. The comprehensive report of the Committee had validated the decision of the Commission to revitalize its conference structure. The Commission noted the capacity of the secretariat to draw together regional experiences and resources to support sustainable development in a globalized environment. In carrying out its functions in such a manner, ESCAP would be an essential partner in meeting the region's common development challenges.

141. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its first session (E/ESCAP/1307), including the recommendations contained therein.

142. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization as reflected in document E/ESCAP/1308.

Selected cross-cutting issues

143. The Commission noted that there was a need to address the high trade and transport transaction costs in many countries in the region. In that regard, it welcomed the integrated approach being taken by the secretariat to trade and transport facilitation. It encouraged member countries to establish national trade and transport committees and requested the secretariat to provide support and guidance in their establishment and functioning through the sharing of experience.

144. The Commission noted with appreciation the cost/time-distance model developed by ESCAP, which was already being applied by countries in undertaking corridor studies, and the Trade Facilitation Framework, and requested the secretariat to provide training and advisory services to assist countries in their application.

145. The Commission recognized that, as information, communication and space technology had a tremendous impact on the flow of capital, goods and services and knowledge, it had become one of the main driving forces of globalization. It was further recognized that ICT was an enabling tool for development that promised unprecedented opportunities for growth, particularly for least developed countries, landlocked countries, small island developing countries and economies in transition. While ICT and space technology were very important for social and economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,[1] the Commission recognized that the information revolution also presented challenges to the countries in the region.

146. The Commission held the view that the secretariat should accord priority to bridging the digital divide by employing the tools of capacity-building, sharing of best practices and pilot projects. In that regard, particular efforts were requested to promote community e-centres with cooperation from financial institutions, with the aim of bringing the benefits accruing from globalization to rural areas, uplifting the quality of life and helping to realize the targets set by global conferences, especially the World Summit on the Information Society.

147. The Commission recognized the important role of Governments, the industrial sector and civil society in promoting a shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

148. The Commission noted with appreciation the regional expert meetings on the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production hosted by the Governments of Indonesia and the Republic of Korea. The meetings had taken stock of ongoing activities, exchanged information and experiences and developed a common understanding and strategies in order to map out a 10-year plan for revising the existing consumption and production patterns as well as turning international commitments into reality.

149. The Commission welcomed the joint efforts of the secretariat and UNEP to establish a help desk to assist ESCAP members and associate members in shifting towards sustainable consumption and production. Further, it stressed the importance of improving the exchange of information and dissemination of best practices and knowledge on sustainable consumption and production and it requested the secretariat to provide expertise and technical assistance, hold training courses and seminars, specify standards for cleaner production and a clean environment and determine regional priorities in that area.

Sectoral issues and developments

Trade and investment

150. In considering document E/ESCAP/1328, on the Doha Development Agenda and Fifth WTO

Ministerial Conference: implications for the ESCAP region, the Commission underscored the primacy of the multilateral trading system. It felt that a universal, fair, open, predictable, rule-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system was a crucial component in managing globalization. The multilateral trading system should be shaped to ensure that it became a positive force for development so that all countries could secure a fair share in the growth of world trade. The system provided an important means of promoting both North-South and South-South trade. In that context, the Commission expressed the view that the setback at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún, Mexico, should not be seen as a discouragement. It noted that negotiations had resumed and that there were currently positive developments pointing towards increased momentum in the negotiations.

151. The Commission noted that development concerns were the focus of ongoing and future negotiations and an integral part of ensuring the successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations as well as systematic and sustainable trade liberalization.

152. The Commission noted the view expressed regarding the centrality of the negotiations on agriculture, in particular, the importance of reducing or eliminating agricultural subsidies, tariff peaks, tariff escalation and various non-tariff measures applied to products of developing countries and least developed countries. It also noted the view that clarifying outstanding implementation issues and making special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries more precise, effective and operational should receive due attention.

153. The Commission noted that the vast majority of people in most developing countries lived in rural areas and that they had failed to gain substantial benefits from globalization and the multilateral trading system. It noted the view expressed regarding the importance of food security, poverty alleviation and rural development as major development concerns. It urged that due recognition be given to those issues with a view to bringing more benefits of globalization to rural areas. In that context, it noted the view that special products linked to food security, protection of rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation in developing countries should receive due consideration in WTO disciplines as part of special and differential treatment.

154. The Commission noted the view that social implications and aspects of globalization had assumed increasing importance, as evidenced by the intellectual property rights regime, including the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, and therefore deserved recognition. In that context, certain delegations observed that developing countries continued to have limited access to life-saving drugs because of prohibitive costs and the patent system.

155. The Commission noted the view that, with the phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement on 31 December 2004, it would be necessary to ensure a level playing field for developing countries to benefit from the liberalization of the textile and clothing sector.

156. The Commission noted that no explicit consensus had emerged on formulating multilateral rules on the "Singapore issues". It noted the view that WTO might not be the appropriate forum for negotiations on those issues and that further exploratory work was needed. It also noted the view that initiating negotiations on the modalities of approaching those issues could result in potential benefits for developing countries, in particular in the area of trade facilitation, taking into consideration special and differential treatment that would respond to the implementation capacities or the specific situation of developing countries.

157. Certain delegations emphasized the need for the multilateral trading system to pay special attention to the requirements of landlocked and island developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition, countries with small economies and other vulnerable countries in the areas of trade and investment and urged the secretariat to provide technical assistance for those countries on a priority basis.

158. The Commission noted the view that accession to WTO should be facilitated through the accelerated provision of capacity-building and technical assistance programmes.

159. Certain delegations stressed that the extensive commitments undertaken by countries which had recently acceded to WTO should be recognized. The Commission noted the view that due attention should be paid to their interests and difficulties, permitting them to make fewer concessions or none at all under the current negotiations.

160. The Commission noted that, with its wide regional diversity, ESCAP could promote regional cooperation as a positive force for economic and social development in much the same way that it promoted increased trade and investment.

161. The Commission noted the proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements in the Asian and Pacific region. It also noted a number of new and recent initiatives that countries of the region had undertaken in that regard. In some cases, such agreements included commitments beyond those contained in the WTO agreements and Doha mandate and contributed to regional cooperation in trade and investment and regional economic integration. The Commission felt that such agreements could be useful and complementary to the multilateral trading system in achieving countries' trade policy objectives as long as they were in conformity with WTO rules, principles and agreements. In that context, it requested the secretariat to accord high priority to the preparation of an in-depth study on regional and bilateral trade agreements, particularly with a view to facilitating FDI in the region and ensuring that such agreements would evolve as "building blocks" of the multilateral trading system.

162. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts to revitalize the Bangkok Agreement, particularly with regard to the third round of negotiations, and noted that the Agreement was an important mechanism for regional integration.

163. The Commission, while recognizing the importance of increased market access, emphasized the need for developing countries to improve and strengthen their domestic production capacities, with particular attention to investment promotion and facilitation, trade facilitation and the development of SMEs. It noted that SMEs contributed to poverty reduction through the provision of employment but faced new challenges in an era of globalization. It called on the secretariat to step up support for SMEs and, in that context, commended the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum and of APCAEM, which could assist rural SMEs.

164. The Commission noted the secretariat's effort in establishing the Asia-Pacific trade research network and expressed support for that initiative.

165. The Commission commended the secretariat on the technical assistance undertaken in trade capacity-building, in particular its activities on accession to WTO and the various training activities related to WTO and the Doha Development Agenda. It stressed the importance of ensuring continuity in the delivery of those activities, giving due regard to their quality and efficiency. It also stressed the importance of supply-side capacity-building, in particular in the areas of trade facilitation, investment promotion and facilitation, and enterprise development. It called upon the secretariat to forge effective links with other technical assistance programmes in those areas so as to avoid duplication and strengthen cooperation with other international and regional and subregional agencies, including the International Institute for Trade and Development, based in Bangkok. It also stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen the relationship between the United Nations and WTO in the delivery of technical assistance and in ensuring policy coherence.

166. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities the secretariat had undertaken in implementing its resolution 56/1 of 7 June 2000 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009, and resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002 on the establishment of APCAEM in Beijing and urged the secretariat to continue with those activities as appropriate.

Transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism

167. In considering document E/ESCAP/1309, entitled "Report on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation", the Commission underscored the importance of ensuring the existence of an efficient and cost-effective transport infrastructure and services that provided countries in the region with physical access to global markets as well as other economic and social opportunities. To achieve that end, it expressed the belief that prioritizing and building transport infrastructure was one of the most important tasks to be undertaken.

168. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to work with member countries to realize the vision of an integrated, international intermodal transport system that supported mobility, trade and tourism both domestically and across international borders. It noted with satisfaction the significant milestones that had been achieved in the formulation of intraregional and interregional transport linkages through the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway and improving shipping and intermodal connections, including ports, taking into account the economic, social, environmental and safety aspects of transport. In so doing, it endorsed the strategy on transport infrastructure and facilitation proposed by the Committee on Managing Globalization at its first session.

169. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the collaborative approach taken by the secretariat in identifying and undertaking activities jointly with other United Nations bodies and regional and subregional organizations dealing with transport and tourism issues. It emphasized that continued efforts should be made to enlist the support of, and work with, those bodies and organizations, as well as the private sector.

170. The Commission reiterated the continuing relevance and importance of resolutions 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, 51/8 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific and 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges. It reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the momentum of the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, including phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan.

171. The Commission noted the progress reported by several delegations with respect to their accession to international conventions. It also noted that numerous agreements on transport and facilitation were already in place, but that problems with implementation remained. The Commission therefore requested the secretariat to conduct workshops at the national and regional levels to enhance understanding and assist the implementation of existing agreements, including the international conventions listed in resolution 48/11.

172. The Commission endorsed the timely convening of a ministerial conference on transport in 2006 to review the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan and develop a strategy for the further development of reliable and efficient, integrated, intermodal international transport that facilitated international trade and tourism as well as the economic integration processes.

173. Recognizing the practical importance and relevance of the integrated Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project to countries in the region, especially the landlocked and transit developing countries, the Commission reiterated its support for the priority status of ALTID and endorsed the revised plan of action for the project, 2004-2005.

174. The Commission welcomed the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network as an important step towards the coordinated development of international highways in the region, as well as between Asia and Europe. It invited member States to sign or accede to the Agreement so that it could enter into force at an early date and play a catalytic role in the comprehensive development of international highways in the region.

175. The Commission adopted resolution 60/4 on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network.

176. The Commission noted the importance of financing transport infrastructure and encouraged the secretariat to work with member countries of the region in showcasing investment opportunities.

177. The Commission endorsed the development of an intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway. It noted the substantial progress being made in the planning and implementation of demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor and urged all member countries to participate.

178. The Commission urged the secretariat to focus attention increasingly on additional land and land-cum-sea corridors, including the North-South and Southern Corridors. In that regard, it noted the existing capacities within the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose delegation requested the secretariat to place information on the ESCAP web site on the analysis undertaken by that country with respect to land connections with Asia and the Pacific.

179. The delegation of the Republic of Korea apprised the Commission of progress in reconnecting the Gyeongui and Donghae lines between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and noted that the work was expected to be completed in 2005.

180. In the context of Asia-Europe transport corridors, the Commission underscored the importance of the joint programme of work between ECE and ESCAP and noted that the First Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages had been successfully convened by the two regional commissions in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in March 2004. The importance of a number of corridors including the TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) Trans-Siberian, North-South and Southern Corridors was noted. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the secretariat to identify that part of the Silk Road that crossed the borders and passed through the territory of that country.

181. The Commission noted the active cooperation of member countries in regional and subregional initiatives to develop intra- and interregional transport linkages and a number of national transport infrastructure development initiatives designed to facilitate transit traffic. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran apprised the Commission of a number of initiatives to facilitate transit traffic, including upgrading national highways, increasing the capacity of ports on the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf, shortening the rail connection between the north of the country and the Persian Gulf and connecting the country's rail network to that of Pakistan. The delegation of Azerbaijan apprised the Commission of activities being undertaken to facilitate transit traffic on the TRACECA and North-South routes. The delegation of China noted that it was paying attention and giving priority to the construction of trunk routes, such as the route from its eastern part to Central Asia, and the road linkages with neighbouring countries with respect to the Asian Highway network.

182. The Commission acknowledged the importance of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) as a framework for strengthening cooperation among them and their integration into the economies of Europe and Asia. It urged the member countries and the secretariat to support the activities of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing.

183. The Commission requested the secretariat to focus attention on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

184. The Commission recognized the efforts of the secretariat in the preparatory process for the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation and the active participation of landlocked and transit countries. It noted with satisfaction the close collaboration between the secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the substantial progress already being made in implementing the "road map" within the ESCAP region. The Commission also noted that further work on the subject should be in accordance with the Almaty Programme of Action and that the primary responsibility for establishing efficient transit systems lay with landlocked and transit developing countries on a bilateral basis.

185. The Commission greatly appreciated the work of the secretariat in transport facilitation and the effective assistance given to the Greater Mekong Subregion in preparation for the negotiation of facilitation agreements in collaboration with ADB. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to provide the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

countries with guidance and expressed the hope that that would lead to the development of a multilateral road transport facilitation agreement between member countries.

186. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to and support for the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region. It noted with appreciation that a range of activities were being implemented to enhance the capabilities of member countries to formulate integrated policies to foster the sound and sustainable development of tourism and promote regional cooperation, paying particular attention to addressing the special concerns of least developed countries and landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition.

187. The Commission endorsed the convening of an intergovernmental meeting on sustainable tourism development in 2005. It expressed the view that such a meeting would provide an opportunity to review the implementation of the Plan of Action and to consider launching a second phase of the Plan to focus on the promotion of transport linkages from a tourism perspective and the promotion of tourism as a means to reduce poverty. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the meeting.

188. The Commission noted with pleasure that the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism, which had been established by ESCAP in 1997, had been functioning as an effective mechanism for promoting cooperation in tourism education and training.

189. The Commission encouraged the secretariat to assist member countries in accelerating the utilization of ICT in tourism (e-tourism), including the creation of mechanisms for preventing its abuse.

190. The Commission expressed appreciation for the contributions, in cash and in kind, or both, received from the Governments of China, India, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, as well as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and ADB. In that regard, it noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan had been supporting the development of the Asian Highway network, including bilateral infrastructure financing.

Information, communication and space technology

191. The Commission expressed strong support for the ESCAP subprogramme on information, communication and space technology and requested the secretariat to continue its work in increasing countries' capacities in applying those technologies and bridging the digital divide, particularly through sharing best practices and experiences in e-business, e-community, e-government, e-education, e-health and e-tourism.

192. The Commission expressed strong support for ESCAP's efforts to promote the use of ICT in the empowerment of disadvantaged social groups and for the use of ICT as a means for poverty reduction. ICT was viewed as a channel for enhancing market access and learning opportunities among the poor and improving the quality of social and public services, particularly in remote areas. The Commission encouraged the secretariat to play a proactive role in fostering partnerships among all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to ensure effective use of ICT for poor communities, particularly remote rural communities.

193. Taking account of the vast diversity of the Asian and Pacific region in terms of ICT and space technology development and applications, the Commission stressed the vital role of regional cooperation in ICT and national efforts to promote such cooperation. It requested the secretariat to continue to implement its resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in ICT for development, particularly with respect to strengthening the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the areas of ICT policy, infrastructure and capacity-building.

194. The Commission expressed full support for the outcome of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held at Geneva in December 2003, and praised the leading and coordinating role of ESCAP in the regional preparations. It requested the secretariat to play an active role in the implementation of the follow-up to that phase, including the monitoring of ICT development, and to coordinate the regional preparations for the second phase of the World Summit.

195. The Commission noted with pleasure the experience of some countries in creating an enabling environment for the information society. It held the view that there was a need to develop a means of monitoring the development of the information society, including standardized definition of indicators, measurements and methods. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Thailand to cooperate in developing a framework for the "unified measurement spectrum of the information society", that is, a range of standardized indicators for measuring the information society.

196. The Commission expressed support for the recommendation of the Committee on Managing Globalization at its first session that a regional plan of action be formulated to lead to an information society on the basis of the regional road map towards an information society in Asia and the Pacific. It noted the Committee's recommendation on the importance of examining the best ways of promoting broadband deployment in member countries and welcomed ongoing initiatives, such as the regional Asia broadband programme proposed by Japan and others.

197. The Commission recognized ESCAP's Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) as a unique regional cooperative network in promoting operational applications of space-based information and

communication technologies, such as remote sensing, satellite communication, geographical information systems and global navigation satellite systems that supported sustainable development, an improved quality of life and informed disaster management in the region. It expressed appreciation for the continued support from its member countries for RESAP to help less developed countries to benefit from the Programme.

198. The Commission agreed that RESAP should be further strengthened to help its members and associate members to reach the Millennium Development Goals[1] as well as the goals set by global conferences, especially the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society. In that regard, it appreciated the fact that the secretariat had initiated preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as recommended at the fifty-ninth session, and agreed to hold it in 2007.

199. Considering the impact of natural disasters and the loss of human lives and property, and their influence on poverty, the Commission expressed appreciation for the secretariat's capacity-building efforts in space technology applications, harmonization and institutionalization of relevant international and regional initiatives towards natural disaster management. It noted the proposal of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of an international body in the region for natural disaster management affiliated with the United Nations. It also noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan regarding cooperation in space technology.

200. The Commission welcomed the close cooperation between the secretariat and ITU in the regional preparations for the World Summit and the monitoring and implementation of its outcome, including the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT.

Environment and sustainable development

201. The Commission noted the importance of the secretariat's activities to enhance the capacity of countries in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, environmental monitoring, biodiversity conservation, energy efficiency, enhanced utilization of renewable energy and water resources management. It requested the secretariat to take due cognizance of issues and problems at the subregional and national levels in its studies and projects.

202. While emphasizing the role of capacity-building and technology transfer in promoting sustainable development, particularly in the areas of the environment, energy and water resources, the Commission noted with appreciation the efforts and contribution made by the secretariat. It also emphasized the need for the secretariat to encourage wider stakeholder involvement in those activities at both the regional and national levels by tapping the wisdom of the scientific community, civil society and NGOs.

203. The Commission welcomed the role of ESCAP as the regional mechanism in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It emphasized the need to implement priority issues at the national and regional levels, particularly those identified in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, as included in the Plan of Implementation. Some delegations noted with appreciation the benefits they had received from the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment and requested the secretariat to mobilize all possible resources to expedite the translation of the Initiative into action.

204. The Commission noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Regional Implementation Meeting on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements for Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in October 2003. It appreciated that the final report of the Meeting had been submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session, in April 2004.

205. The Commission noted that the achievements under the Johannesburg Plan were still below the desired level. It was, therefore, crucial for the United Nations to make coordinated and concerted efforts among its bodies, specialized agencies and regional commissions, funds and programmes, as well as other regional and international organizations, to ensure the effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda. It suggested that, in support of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the secretariat should take a bottom-up approach and ensure that regional inputs were effectively integrated into that body's programme of work.

206. The Commission endorsed the organization of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to host the Conference in March 2005. It recommended that the Conference focus on translating the Johannesburg Plan into concrete activities and expressed appreciation for the secretariat's preparatory activities. The Government of the Republic of Korea invited all members and associate members to participate actively in the preparatory meetings as well as the Conference.

207. In response to a request from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the subregional preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Conference, the secretariat stated that the South-West Asian countries concerned, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, would be included in the subregional preparatory meeting for Central Asia.

208. The Commission noted that an increasing number of ESCAP members and associate members had become strongly committed parties to multilateral environmental agreements. It emphasized that the secretariat could play a leading role in capacity-building as well as providing technical assistance in implementing the commitments under the agreements.

209. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the activities under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) and supported the recommendation adopted by the Ninth Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC, held in Moscow in March 2004.

210. To ensure sustainable economic development in the North-East Asian subregion, the Commission requested the secretariat to facilitate the dialogue towards promoting energy cooperation.

211. The Commission welcomed the initiatives taken by Thailand to establish targets to increase the share of renewable energy. It also welcomed the offer of the Government of India to share experience in renewable energy development and provide training opportunities related to capacity-building in other developing countries in that area.

212. The Commission encouraged the development of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as well as the establishment of regional and national disaster mitigation and preparedness strategies and policies. To that effect, it was suggested that a research network be considered with the cooperation of the international organizations concerned under ESCAP guidance to deal with floods and earthquakes.

213. The Government of Thailand invited the Governments of ESCAP members and associate members to attend the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Third IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in October and November 2004 respectively.

214. The Commission noted with appreciation the implementation of its resolution 57/6 of 25 April 2001 on the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 in support of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development. It requested the secretariat to ensure that all subregions benefited from training and advisory services.

Emerging social issues

215. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1310 and E/ESCAP/1311, on emerging social issues.

216. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its first session as contained in document E/ESCAP/1310.

217. The Commission noted that the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995, had forged a new consensus on people-centred development. It emphasized that development was a complex mix of mutually reinforcing social and economic factors. It commended the secretariat on addressing emerging social issues and specifically on focusing on socially vulnerable groups which had not benefited fully from development trends in the region. It affirmed that the rights-based approach was an effective way to empower such groups and that it was essential to involve civil society, including the private sector, in social development.

218. The Commission reiterated the importance of education and called for the achievement of universal education in the ESCAP region, as education was an essential element of national development in terms of both social progress and economic growth. It requested the secretariat to continue to support national efforts to promote social development, inter alia, by improving the provision of social services, in particular, education, public health care and sanitation, with emphasis on the more disadvantaged groups of the population.

219. The Commission called upon the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in implementing the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. Several delegations described programmes that their countries were carrying out to empower persons with disabilities, which included ensuring their access to education and vocational training, employment opportunities, information and communication technology, sports and cultural participation, and civic involvement.

220. Many countries in the region were actively involved in the process of elaborating an international convention on promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including participation in the ad hoc committee established for that purpose. The Commission commended the secretariat on the many activities that it had organized in support of the process, including the convening of regional workshops to prepare the full draft text of a possible convention. It requested its members to continue their support for and active participation in the drafting process of the convention. It welcomed the annual contributions of the Governments of China and Japan to the ESCAP Trust Fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

221. The Commission commended the secretariat on its activities in support of the Shanghai Implementation Strategy: Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999. It reaffirmed that ESCAP was the United Nations focal point in the region for activities related to older persons.

222. Several delegations described legislation that had been enacted and policies that had been instituted to address the issue of ageing in a development context. The Commission suggested that future reviews of the global and regional mandates on ageing should be evidence-based and conducted by national experts with

support from ESCAP. It called upon the secretariat to pay increased attention to the situation of older women, in particular their health issues, as the number of women substantially exceeded the number of men at older ages.

223. The Commission noted plans to implement the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted by the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Bangkok in December 2002, in particular to integrate its recommendations into national development policies.

224. The Commission concurred with the analysis and recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1311, entitled "Emerging social issues: trends, issues and strategies". It noted that such demographic dynamics as declining fertility and mortality, population ageing and internal and international migration called for disability policies to be integrated into national economic and social development policies.

225. The Commission stressed the importance of strengthening regional and subregional cooperation in the sphere of international migration, in particular managing labour migration and preventing irregular migration. It called upon the secretariat to analyse the causes and consequences of international migration, including projecting future trends and assessing the use and impact of remittances.

226. The Commission invited members and associate members to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family 1994 by strengthening support for the family as the basis for caring societies.

227. The Commission noted that gender was a cross-cutting issue that had a significant impact on a number of emerging and persisting social issues, including migration, trafficking, population ageing, the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and social safety nets.

228. Delegations reiterated their commitment to and expressed their support for promoting gender equality through the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. Several delegations reported on their gender-mainstreaming efforts at the national and local government levels. An example was given of a national law by which a political party would be required to allocate at least 30 per cent of its total number of candidates to women. A rights-based approach to achieving gender equality was considered appropriate in that it would ensure the full and equal participation of women and men in the development process. It would also ensure that the contribution of women to the development process was recognized and adopted in national policy formulation. The Commission took note of the need to take account of cultural characteristics when implementing measures to promote gender equality. It pointed out the usefulness of those sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics which were currently not readily available.

229. The Commission expressed concern regarding the region's increasing trafficking in women and children. Regional and international collaborative efforts to combat trafficking in women and children were considered crucial. The effectiveness of the existing mechanisms would have to be improved. At the same time, domestic legislative frameworks needed to be strengthened to complement multinational and bilateral initiatives.

230. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Delegations called for local, national, regional and international efforts in that context, involving Governments, civil society organizations and international organizations.

231. The Commission welcomed the work of the secretariat in advocating and promoting women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming and requested it to continue its capacity development support in that regard through training, technical assistance, the sharing of good practices and the promotion of regional cooperation.

232. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for organizing the 10-year regional review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Delegations looked forward to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, which would be held at Bangkok in September 2004. In that context, the Commission noted the importance of linking the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. It underscored the need to ensure that the review process and the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting would be constructive, keeping in mind the regional perspectives, and would bring about productive discussions on how best the international community and Governments in the ESCAP region could proceed to achieve gender equality. It expressed the hope that the outcome of the regional review would be properly reflected in the global review to be held in March 2005.

233. The Commission expressed appreciation for the value of ESCAP as a high-level policy forum that mainstreamed, in a multiministerial context, health issues as major social and economic development challenges, in partnership with WHO.

234. The Commission underscored the value of regional and subregional cooperation in the prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, such as SARS, HIV/AIDS, avian influenza, tuberculosis, malaria and dengue fever, including prevention, monitoring, information exchange and research. It recognized the importance of non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease, hypertension, cancer and diabetes. The Governments of the Russian Federation and Thailand informed the

Commission of their offers of cooperation and related ongoing contributions, inter alia, to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Commission underscored the value of fostering local and regional cooperation in controlling and preventing drug and substance abuse.

235. The Commission called upon the secretariat to assist in fostering regional cooperation in promoting investment in health for development and in providing capacity-building programmes for allocating, managing and utilizing funds. It welcomed the convening of the first session of the Subcommittee on Health and Development, to be held at Bangkok from 1 to 3 December 2004, which would, inter alia, promote investment in health as a priority development issue. In citing the need for better access to health care that would be more affordable by the majority, it suggested that innovative mechanisms be developed for transferring health-related technologies and equipment to poor communities.

236. Several delegations reiterated the commitment of their respective Governments to strengthening the comprehensiveness and coverage of multisectoral responses to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and informed the Commission of numerous national initiatives, such as the establishment of national AIDS commissions, AIDS control programmes and increased numbers of people covered by antiretroviral drug treatment, in support of the WHO 3 by 5 Initiative (to reach 3 million persons living with HIV/AIDS by 2005). They also cited other progress towards the development of national strategies built on global and regional mandates, such as the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001) and the Seventh ASEAN Summit Declaration on HIV/AIDS (2001).

237. Despite such promising developments, the Commission noted the slow overall progress towards the achievement of the HIV/AIDS-related targets in the Millennium Declaration. It stressed the importance of regional and interregional cooperation to accelerate progress. In that regard, it urged the international community to increase its resources and action, including capability-building to strengthen national AIDS programmes.

238. The Government of Thailand invited the Governments of ESCAP members and associate members to the XV International AIDS Conference, which it would convene at Bangkok from 11 to 16 July 2004 in collaboration with UNAIDS and the International AIDS Society. It also informed the Commission that it would host the Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS scheduled for 11 July 2004, which would be under the leadership programme of the Conference.

239. The Commission urged its members and associate members to accord high priority to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and to continue advocating the full mobilization of all sectors and levels of government to integrate HIV/AIDS issues into national development planning, sectoral plans and poverty reduction strategies. It emphasized the value of examining strategies that had proved successful both within and outside the ESCAP region.

240. Furthermore, the Commission emphasized the crucial importance of life skills training to bring about an effective change in the behaviour of young people, who were most vulnerable to HIV infection. That training was a viable means of helping young people to develop healthy lifestyles that would protect them not only from HIV/AIDS, but also from non-communicable health problems, such as obesity and tobacco use.

241. The Commission adopted resolution 60/2 containing a regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

242. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/1312). It expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the comprehensive report and endorsed the recommendations contained therein with respect to the two substantive agenda items: urban management issues in Pacific island developing countries and revitalization of UN-EPOC.

243. On urban management issues, the Commission noted that urban populations were growing rapidly in Pacific island developing countries. National and local-level governments were ill-equipped to meet those urban growth challenges. The Commission noted that Governments had recognized the importance of managing urban development for sustained economic growth and some had put in place legislation and policies and implemented programmes to address the pressing issues. It recognized the constraints on urban development, particularly in respect of traditional land tenure systems and the private land markets and limited public land supply. It noted the development of squatter settlements. The Commission adopted resolution 60/7 on a Pacific Urban Agenda.

244. The Commission commended the Executive Secretary on his efforts to revitalize UN-EPOC to better serve the needs of Pacific island countries. It stressed the need for close cooperation with regional organizations to address the needs of Pacific island countries. It also commended the secretariat on the establishment of the Advisory Council of UN-EPOC to provide guidance on the Centre's work priorities and thus promote greater ownership by Pacific island developing countries and territories of the work programmes.

245. The Commission noted the impending relocation of UN-EPOC from Port Vila to Suva. The delegation of Vanuatu expressed reservations concerning the consultation process and the pace of

implementation of the move. It also stated that the Centre had worked effectively since 1984 and had contributed to the economy of Vanuatu. The Commission noted that a consultative process had taken place with Pacific members and associate members, ACPR and the Commission at its fifty-ninth session. It further noted that the relocation was in the interests of Pacific island countries as it would strengthen ESCAP activities in the Pacific through greater interaction and cooperation with other United Nations bodies and regional organizations.

246. The Commission noted the benefits that Pacific island countries derived from the Pacific Trust Fund and expressed appreciation to the donors for contributing to the Fund. One delegation requested the secretariat to provide details of the Fund.

247. The Commission also noted the triennial Pacific island summits hosted by Japan since 1997 and, in particular, the Okinawa Initiative based on the human security concept, which had as its priorities security, education and capacity-building, environment, health and sanitation, trade and economic growth.

248. The Commission urged the secretariat to organize regional-level follow-up on the outcome of the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004.

249. The Commission expressed appreciation for the renewed commitment given to the most vulnerable members of the international community by the regional commissions as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. To enable the least developed countries and the landlocked and island developing countries to meet the developmental challenges posed by globalization, national, regional and international policies should be coherent and designed in line with the goals and commitments made in the Millennium Declaration, the global programmes of action for the least developed countries and the landlocked and island developing countries and the commitments made in the Doha Round and the Monterrey Consensus.

250. The Commission noted that the least developed countries and the landlocked and island developing countries were responsible for their own development. They had taken steps to mobilize their own financial resources, eliminate corruption and promote governance. However, those countries still faced structural constraints resulting from their small economic size, dependency on commodities, geography and vulnerability to natural disasters. The Commission noted that their prospects for future development were also affected by the decline in aid, unsustainable debt, trade barriers and falling national income.

251. The Commission noted that revitalization of the economies of the region, improvement of the economic infrastructure and trade facilitation through regional cooperation and assistance from regional organizations were essential in order to address those constraints. It also noted that increased aid should be directed to education, health, agriculture and public administration. Access to developed markets for agricultural products and the sharing of science, technology and knowledge could create opportunities to benefit the poor. In that regard, the Commission expressed appreciation for the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, which was managed by the United Nations and would enable the empowerment of individuals and communities.

252. The Commission expressed appreciation to donor countries and international organizations for supporting activities implemented by ESCAP for the benefit of least developed countries and landlocked and Pacific island developing countries.

253. The Commission adopted resolution 60/6 on the revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

Programme planning and evaluation

Draft strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

254. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1313/Rev.1 containing the ESCAP draft strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 and a summary note by the secretariat on the same subject in document ESCAP(LX)/INF.3.

255. The Executive Secretary, in his introduction, pointed out that the proposed two-year strategic framework replaced the four-year medium-term plan that had guided programme planning through the current biennium. The shift to the strategic framework resulted from the Secretary-General's response to the General Assembly mandate to strengthen the United Nations and enabled the Organization to better align its planning documents with the biennial programme budgets and respond to change more rapidly.

256. The Commission was informed that the initial drafts of the subprogramme planning documents presented had been endorsed by all three thematic committees, which had met in the latter part of 2003. The strategic framework in its current form had been reviewed by ACPR in March and April 2004. The comments and suggestions of ACPR, as well as those received from United Nations Headquarters, had been incorporated into the draft strategic framework, as contained in E/ESCAP/1313/Rev.1. Additional comments by ACPR, as provided at the special session held in April 2004, had been reflected in document ESCAP(LX)/INF.3.

257. The Commission endorsed the draft strategic framework for 2006-2007, aimed at strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and the economic and social development of the countries of the Asian and Pacific region to assist them in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including

those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. It expressed appreciation for the secretariat's efforts in producing a high-quality draft reflecting ESCAP's results-based approach in line with the thematic priorities of poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. It also provided comments with a view to focusing the objectives, strategy and expected accomplishments of the strategic framework and stressed the need for coordination with other international programmes and agencies to avoid duplication.

258. One delegation suggested that, under expected accomplishment (1) in subprogramme 1 on poverty and development, it would be useful to organize capacity-building activities focusing on measurement aspects of the emerging issue of the feminization of poverty.

259. One delegation noted that, in subprogramme 2 on statistics, there was a need for more interaction, especially among the least developed and developing countries, to address the issue of uniformity of methodologies, concepts and approaches in measuring poverty to achieve comparability.

260. One delegation recommended that, under subprogramme 4 on trade and investment, ESCAP should issue guidelines to lessen the possible negative impact involved in accession to WTO.

261. Under subprogramme 5 on transport and tourism, one delegation noted the importance of regional and subregional agreements, such as the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, and stressed the need to strengthen coordination and cooperation with other United Nations agencies. Another delegation suggested adding tourism to the infrastructure and facilitation focus of expected accomplishment (1). Yet another delegation proposed that ESCAP identify ways in which island members could take full advantage of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway.

262. Under subprogramme 6 on environment and sustainable development, one delegation noted that, while country-specific indicators had been developed for monitoring priorities and measures, they should be consistent with international commitments. Another delegation suggested that a new body be established to address and reduce the impact of natural disasters. One delegation expressed the opinion that the strategy statement for the subprogramme should include a reference to the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, as it would be a reflection of ESCAP's own initiatives. Other delegations felt that, since the Regional Platform had been part of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, it was subsumed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and no longer needed to be mentioned specifically. The Commission agreed to add the following text to the end of subparagraph (i) of the strategy statement for subprogramme 6: "in which some salient features of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform are duly reflected".

263. One delegation felt that, under subprogramme 7 on information, communication and space technology, there was a need for a mechanism for sharing bulk bandwidth and promoting Internet exchange nodes at the national and regional levels, to achieve a more secure, well-managed and affordable Internet infrastructure. The same delegation emphasized the need to avoid duplication with existing institutions and activities in the region. That delegation expressed the view that the original text of the three paragraphs of the strategy statement for the subprogramme (in E/ESCAP/1313) should be retained and stressed that that was not a point of style but rather of substance, as it was the role of member States to endorse the strategic framework. The secretariat explained the need for consistency in the strategic frameworks for the various programmes and that the current instructions from United Nations Headquarters were to include references to coordination to avoid duplication and ensure consistency with other United Nations agencies only in the overall orientation section of the framework, as that would be applicable to all subprogrammes of the ESCAP strategic framework. Two delegations expressed support for including the clause on avoiding duplication in the overall orientation, rather than in any specific subprogramme. Other delegations expressed the view that the Commission should focus more on the content of the framework and leave the specific wording to the secretariat as it was a draft document of the secretariat.

264. Under subprogramme 8 on social development, including persistent and emerging issues, one delegation stressed the importance of continuous interaction among countries, particularly for combating HIV/AIDS and issues relating to the collection of reliable statistics on that sensitive issue, and noted the subprogramme's emphasis on the role of NGOs and civil society in the matter. Another delegation pointed to the need for a greater focus on public health, especially advocacy work for developing countries.

265. It was suggested that the strategic framework should eventually lead to more specific activities to enable resources to be more concentrated on major priority projects in areas where ESCAP had a comparative advantage. The secretariat responded that details on specific activities and approaches would be reflected in the draft biennial programme of work, which would be developed later in 2004 and then submitted to the Commission at its sixty-first session.

266. It was also suggested that higher-level impact indicators, such as the content of policies developed (gender responsiveness, rights-based and strategic partnerships developed) and increased access to information, communication, etc., as well as indicators corresponding to Millennium Development Goal indicators, could better gauge the success or failure of programme implementation. The secretariat noted the comments of the Commission and indicated that the level of expected accomplishments and indicators of

achievement were determined in consultation with United Nations Headquarters to ensure coherence and consistency. Impact indicators would be developed for longer-term evaluative use, but the present indicators, as found in the strategic framework, were for monitoring purposes.

267. In order to ensure that the results-based approach was more effective and beneficial, ESCAP was encouraged to maintain clarity in the roles and responsibilities of regional institutions so as to ensure that the services rendered under the relevant subprogrammes were provided efficiently.

268. One delegation recommended that an interim report be prepared at the midpoint of the strategic framework in order to assess the progress made and ensure realistic indicators of achievement. The secretariat noted the need for continued monitoring and evaluation and increased resource mobilization to effectively carry out planned programme activities.

269. One delegation encouraged ESCAP member countries, particularly those which were members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Economic and Social Council, to play a more active and coordinated role in support of the strategic framework during its consideration by those intergovernmental bodies. Another delegation called for donor countries and international agencies to support the strategic framework for 2006-2007 in order to promote the economic and social welfare of the region and in particular to pursue poverty reduction policies and lessen income disparities.

270. One delegation requested that activities to be implemented should eventually result in tangible and measurable benefits to member countries, especially landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and economies in transition. In that regard, more effort should be devoted to policy-oriented research and recommendations that would have a longer-term impact on the beneficiaries. That delegation further recommended that ESCAP maintain a balance between normative work, regular budget- and extrabudgetary-funded activities and economic and social development priorities.

Programme performance report for 2002-2003

271. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1314 containing the programme performance report for 2002-2003.

272. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the report reflected the first results-based reporting by the secretariat.

273. The highlights of programme achievements by thematic area, the consolidated results of activities undertaken under each of the seven ESCAP subprogrammes and the lessons learned during the biennium 2002-2003 were included in the report.

274. The report highlighted programme achievements in 2002-2003 by focusing on more meaningful qualitative reporting of key results achieved rather than on quantitative output delivery. The report was based on evidence collected from end-users of the secretariat's products and services as well as from evaluation findings covering the period under review.

275. The Commission congratulated the secretariat on producing a focused and succinct programme performance report, reflecting a results-based approach for the first time. The view was expressed that the lessons contained in the report would be beneficial for future programme planning. One delegation requested that, in the future, there be more specificity in the reporting of objectives and expected accomplishments.

276. The Commission was pleased to note that Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal had acceded to WTO and encouraged the secretariat to do more to facilitate the accession of other countries. One delegation stressed the importance of continuity, quality and efficiency in implementing technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in that area, specifically to strengthen the negotiating skills and implementation capacities of developing and least developed countries in the region. That included effective coordination among relevant international and regional organizations and donors to avoid duplication.

277. The Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its constructive comments and acknowledged that technical cooperation activities were improving, with well-documented and closely monitored projects being implemented. He noted that the trade and investment subprogramme was according priority to assisting countries in acceding to WTO.

Proposed programme changes for 2004-2005

278. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1315 containing the proposed programme changes for 2004-2005 and endorsed those changes.

279. The Executive Secretary stated that the proposed programme changes for 2004-2005 reflected the mandates adopted during the second phase of the fifty-ninth session as well as emerging global priorities identified by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In view of the shift from output-oriented reporting to results-based management, the secretariat had proposed only major programme changes at the output level.

280. The Commission expressed the view that the proposed changes would contribute to better utilization of resources for priority programme areas and would further contribute to the results-based approach.

Realignment of the work of the regional institutions

281. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1316, on the realignment of the work of the regional institutions, namely, the Asian and Pacific

Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and describing the work of the newly established Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM).

282. The Executive Secretary, in his introduction, pointed out that the Commission, during the second phase of its fifty-ninth session, had reviewed the results of the evaluation of APCTT, the CGPRT Centre and SIAP and had recommended realignment of their work to improve their effectiveness, as part of the revitalization of ESCAP. That realignment process had been undertaken with a view to reorienting the efforts of the regional institutions so that their work would contribute to the expected accomplishments of the relevant ESCAP subprogrammes. Early in 2004, the staff of the regional institutions had participated in training workshops and consultations conducted by the secretariat and aimed at enhancing the skills of the staff to implement programmes through results-based management, logical framework approaches and coordinated work-plan development. That had resulted in work programmes that were more responsive to the target groups of the regional institutions, more focused on priority issues and better aligned with ESCAP's programme of work, 2004-2005 and strategic framework for the period 2006-2007. In addition, initiatives were being taken to harmonize the statutes of the regional institutions to enable their work programmes to come under the established United Nations intergovernmental review processes, in accordance with United Nations regulations and rules.

283. The Commission expressed support for efforts, as necessary, to align the activities of the regional institutions with the ESCAP programme of work and ensure that their governance structures were consistent with United Nations processes for intergovernmental review. It looked forward to that realignment proceeding through close consultation and cooperation among members and associate members and other stakeholders. The final outcome of that process should ensure that the intergovernmental review of the programmatic, administrative and financial aspects of the regional institutions were in line with the appropriate intergovernmental review processes, as mandated by the General Assembly. That should enable the institutions to better respond to the needs and demands of all ESCAP members and associate members. Efforts should also be made to enhance cohesion among the institutions and avoid overlap.

284. One delegation expressed the view that integration of the programme planning and evaluation processes of the regional institutions with ESCAP could be accomplished without dismissing the governing boards of the institutions or diluting the role of members and associate members in their management. That delegation noted that country representatives of UNDP and heads of United Nations information centres were appointed following a consultative process with the Member State in question and that it should therefore be possible to have a process of consultation with the governing boards of the regional institutions in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules.

285. One delegation expressed the view that the governing boards of the regional institutions should review the work programmes of their respective institutions but not the recruitment of staff. No consultation procedure should be involved in the recruitment of the directors of the regional institutions, since the recruitment should be carried out in accordance with United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules.

286. The Executive Secretary noted that, under United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and the delegation of authority from the Secretary-General, all ESCAP staff, including the directors of the regional institutions, should be appointed by the Executive Secretary and not following a process of consultation with individual Governments or limited groups of Governments, as that was inconsistent with established United Nations practice.

287. The Commission noted with satisfaction the report on APCTT (E/ESCAP/1317 and Corr.1). It expressed appreciation for the Centre's activities directed towards technology capacity-building and the promotion and management of innovation, as well as strengthening subregional and regional networking in selected sectors to enable SMEs and intermediaries in the Asian and Pacific region to respond to the challenges of globalization.

288. The Commission welcomed the announcement by the Government of India that it would double its institutional support to APCTT to $200,000 per year. It noted with appreciation the host country facilities provided by that Government to APCTT and the financial support provided by various countries and organizations, including the Republic of Korea.

289. The Commission held the view that there was a need to strengthen APCTT's activities and urged other members and associate members to consider increasing their annual contributions to the Centre, to enable the institution to deliver its technology transfer services to members and associate members in a more effective, regular and sustainable manner. Making the Centre's mandate more responsive to emerging needs would help to make its activities more relevant and facilitate further resource mobilization.

290. The Commission took note of the wishes of Pakistan and Thailand to become full members of the Governing Board of APCTT.

291. One delegation, referring to the recommendation of APCTT's Governing Board at its eighteenth session, held the view that APCTT's activities in the areas of e-technology transfer, developing e-commerce for SMEs and promoting good practices in the transfer and adoption of technologies in rural areas should be further enhanced.

292. The Commission noted with satisfaction the report on the CGPRT Centre (E/ESCAP/1318). It expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the host country facilities and to the Government of Japan for its regular financial support. It also noted that more efforts were needed by all members and associate members, as well as the secretariat, to secure long-term financial and institutional support, including human resources, which were essential for the long-term functioning of the Centre. In addition, the Centre should make efficient use of the resources available for its regular operations and projects.

293. The Commission noted with satisfaction the recommendation of the Centre's Governing Board at the extraordinary session held on 22 March 2004 that the name of the Centre be changed to "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific" (CAPSA) and that the Statute of the Centre be revised to reflect the realignment of its work. The Commission adopted resolution 60/5 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific.

294. The Commission noted with satisfaction the report on SIAP (E/ESCAP/1319). It expressed appreciation for the Institute's performance in implementing strategic programmes to improve and develop the capacity of members and associate members on statistical matters through seminars, workshops and the training of national statistical officers, many of whom had become high-ranking officials in their countries. In that regard, the efforts of the Director of SIAP were considered particularly noteworthy. However, the Commission stressed that SIAP would require a stable financial basis to enable it to respond effectively to the evolving needs of its members and associate members.

295. The Commission welcomed the strong indication of support by the Government of Japan to SIAP for the period April 2004 to March 2005, during which it would provide $1,743,300 in cash and $1,827,700 in kind. In cooperation with SIAP, the Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, would also receive approximately 75 participants in various statistics-related training courses. The Commission noted, however, that additional support in the form of fresh cash contributions from ESCAP members and associate members or increases in the amounts of those contributions, as well as technical assistance from UNDP and other international organizations, would be required to ensure that SIAP was placed on a sound financial footing.

296. The Commission expressed support for the recommendation of the Governing Board of SIAP that a three-year rather than a five-year strategic plan be adopted as a more effective way of enabling the adjustment of programmes to meet the changing training needs and situation of the various countries.

297. The Commission welcomed the suggestion made in the SIAP independent evaluation that the Institute play a coordinating role in regional statistical training activities, which would involve collaborating with other regional and national training institutes. It recommended that the secretariat formulate specific measures to implement that suggestion, in consultation with members and associate members. The possibilities included SIAP organizing training activities with the statistical institutes of various members, to better coordinate the activities of those institutes with a view to enabling them to respond to different statistical needs. SIAP should also expand its activities significantly to address emerging statistical issues and meet demand for statistical training in the era of globalization. For instance, SIAP should strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices in the areas of statistics on ICT, knowledge-based economy indicators and panel survey methodology.

298. Several delegations suggested that SIAP also give importance to specific country needs that might not necessarily be reflected within ESCAP's priority themes, including the conduct of country courses on administration-based sources of statistics, small area estimation and advanced and innovative techniques on survey operations to strengthen the survey capabilities of member countries.

299. The Commission noted with satisfaction the report of APCAEM (E/ESCAP/1320).

300. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that APCAEM headquarters had been established in Beijing with the signing of the headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the Government of China on 19 November 2003. It expressed appreciation to the Government of China, which, pursuant to the supplementary agreement on administrative and financial arrangements signed between the United Nations and China on the same date, had provided $2 million as the first instalment towards covering the institutional costs of APCAEM. It also expressed appreciation for the host country facilities that the Government of China had provided for APCAEM.

301. The Commission noted that, as a new institution, APCAEM faced many challenges. It looked forward to increasing programme and fund-raising support from the secretariat aimed at making the Centre self-sustainable as soon as possible, and expressed the hope that members and associate members of ESCAP and other international organizations and stakeholders, including donor organizations, would play an increasingly active role in fund-raising and project facilitation for APCAEM so as to realize the goal of poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific. With respect to annex I to document E/ESCAP/1320, the Commission expressed the view that, in normal cases, General Service staff members of APCAEM should be recruited step by step according to the practical needs of APCAEM.

302. The Commission expressed the view that the strategy of APCAEM as reflected in annex III to the document should include efforts to transfer technical

know-how through TCDC, inter alia, by promoting improved coordination and links between ESCAP's regional institutions.

303. The Commission took note of the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea to support the establishment of a regional ICT centre in that country, aimed at bridging the digital divide. The Government indicated that a resolution on the establishment of the centre would be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-first session, rather than at the current session, to allow more time for fine-tuning in consultation with members and associate members.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

304. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1321 containing an overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions in 2003.

305. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, as part of ESCAP's revitalization process, the secretariat had sharpened its programme focus and was increasing the effectiveness and impact of its technical cooperation activities, which were shifting towards longer-term, integrated, multidisciplinary and more catalytic projects, and working together with an expanded base of partners. He indicated that, on the basis of its regional mandate and multidisciplinary nature, the secretariat was convinced that, through those efforts, ESCAP would be fully tapping its comparative advantage in key niche areas to assist member States in capacity development.

306. In focusing on ESCAP's three priority thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and emerging social issues, the Executive Secretary indicated that the primary objective of ESCAP's technical cooperation strategy was to assist countries in the region in attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and implementing the outcomes of major United Nations regional and global conferences. Equally important, in the context of results-based management, ESCAP was moving towards an integrated programme approach, with technical cooperation projects clearly contributing to the expected accomplishments of the subprogrammes of ESCAP's biennial programme of work. ESCAP was also seeking the greater involvement of civil society, including the private sector.

307. With respect to integrated programming, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the project portfolio of ESCAP reflected a concentration of the secretariat's technical cooperation resources on fewer and larger-scale projects with a higher impact. In 2003, the total number of individual projects had been 15 per cent lower than in 2002. In the past year, 69 major technical cooperation projects had been ongoing. ESCAP had also increased its efforts in programme and project monitoring and evaluation, as reflected in the number of major projects and regional institutes evaluated in 2003 (12 altogether). For instance, the secretariat had conducted evaluations of major flagship projects and assessed their effectiveness in terms of relevance and impact.

308. The Executive Secretary reported that the total contributions received by ESCAP in 2003 for technical cooperation activities, from sources both within and outside the United Nations, amounted to over $13.5 million, comparable with the previous year's contributions. Through more rigorous efforts in monitoring and evaluation, the volume of ESCAP's technical cooperation delivery in 2003 had totalled over $14 million, up from $11.9 million in 2002.

309. The Executive Secretary also indicated that, owing to the increasing demand from Governments for technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP was intensifying efforts to broaden its extrabudgetary funding base, including shifting towards building bolder partnerships with other United Nations agencies, the private sector and Governments through cost-sharing arrangements, to better assist the members and associate members.

310. The Commission noted the contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2004 as described below.

311. *Azerbaijan.* The representative of Azerbaijan stated that his Government would communicate its intended contribution to the secretariat at a later date.

312. *Brunei Darussalam.* The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that her Government would contribute as follows:

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SIAP	15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

It would also contribute $20,000 to APDC, subject to final confirmation.

313. *Cambodia.* The representative of Cambodia indicated to the secretariat that his Government would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work	1 500
SIAP	1 000

314. *China.* The representative of China stressed the importance which his Government attributed to ESCAP's technical cooperation activities. China had taken an active part in those activities and had been offering strong support to ESCAP's activities. The hosting of the sixtieth session in Shanghai was testimony to that. The Government of China had provided several times more financial support to the current session than to previous ones and stressed its willingness to continue to provide support within its means. The Government of China would provide the final figure later.

315. *India.* The representative of India expressed his Government's appreciation for the good technical cooperation work done by the secretariat in 2003. The unanimous adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network by 32 countries in November 2003 was a major milestone for the coordinated development of the Asian Highway network. The ESCAP/WTO training programmes had helped some member countries to become WTO members. The representative of India requested the secretariat to provide further details on a regional resource centre on women in local government which had been established with assistance from ESCAP. He suggested that, similarly, success stories relating to the community-based participatory development approach of ESCAP needed to be disseminated to all member countries. He requested that more information be provided on ESCAP's efforts to set up a business advisory group as a conduit to work with the private sector. He noted that, among the member countries, India ranked sixth in terms of providing extrabudgetary resources. He also expressed interest in establishing an endowment fund in view of the projects that needed to be implemented.

316. *Indonesia.* The representative of Indonesia stated that, in order to utilize the scarce resources available for TCDC activities efficiently, it was imperative that a sufficient joint effort among member countries together with the ESCAP secretariat be actively promoted and facilitated. He noted that, in the era of globalization, the rapid development of technology could not be hindered but instead should be optimally utilized. He proposed that ESCAP work for the effective use of ICT as a means of coordination and information-sharing among member countries in order to strengthen and maximize TCDC activities. He indicated his Government's continuous support for ESCAP's regional institutions and acknowledged the importance of their activities in improving Indonesia's national capacity.

317. *Islamic Republic of Iran.* The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his Government's appreciation for the work done by the secretariat in 2003 and stated that his Government would continue to support technical cooperation activities. His Government would make the following contributions:

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ESCAP	20 000
SIAP	10 000
APCTT	10 000
APCAEM	15 000

318. *Macao, China.* The representative of Macao, China, indicated a contribution of $12,000 to SIAP and $8,000 to APDC.

319. *Malaysia.* The representative of Malaysia reiterated her country's continued commitment to promoting the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP. Malaysia had benefited from ESCAP's advisory services, fellowships and training activities. Its cooperative arrangement with ESCAP under the Third Country Training Programme had entered its seventh year. Through its National Institute of Public Administration, Malaysia had collaborated with ESCAP in the implementation of environmental and IT management training courses. Malaysia would continue to share its development experience with other developing countries in human resources development through the provision of training, study visits and advisory services. The Government of Malaysia agreed to cooperate with ESCAP in the implementation of a project on capacity development for effective delivery of rural community ICT services and would cost-share with ESCAP by contributing $20,200. With regard to the intended contribution, she announced that her Government would maintain its current level.

320. *Myanmar.* The representative of Myanmar indicated that his Government would make the following contributions:

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ESCAP programme of work	2 000
CGPRT Centre	1 000
SIAP	1 000

321. *Philippines.* The representative of the Philippines announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	$
APCAEM	7 000
APCTT	4 000
CGPRT Centre	6 000
SIAP	10 000

322. *Republic of Korea.* The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that his Government would announce its intended contribution in due course.

323. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka indicated that his Government would maintain its contribution and would provide the exact figure at a later date.

324. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	$
APCTT	15 000
CGPRT Centre	10 000
SIAP	20 000
Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

Thailand would also contribute $12,000 to the Typhoon Committee, $2,000 to the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund and $40,000 and 1,320,000 baht to CCOP.

325. *Viet Nam.* The representative of Viet Nam conveyed his Government's appreciation for ESCAP's training activities. He indicated his Government's desire to increase its contribution to the ESCAP programme of work while maintaining its contribution to the regional institutions. The final figure would be communicated to the secretariat in due course.

326. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the comprehensive report on the technical cooperation activities in 2003 and emphasized that the Governments appreciated the technical cooperation activities carried out by ESCAP. It noted that many members and associate members had benefited from the secretariat's technical cooperation activities, including those implemented by the regional institutions and activities related to South-South cooperation and TCDC.

327. WTO expressed appreciation for the very fine cooperation with ESCAP since 1999, when a memorandum of understanding had been signed between the two organizations. In that context, WTO and ESCAP had jointly organized multilateral trading system training programmes on several subjects, including WTO accession negotiations, trade negotiation skills, trade facilitation, the Doha Development Agenda and telecommunication. In 2004, ESCAP and WTO would each fund 50 per cent of five joint regional training courses planned in the Asian and Pacific region.

328. WMO expressed appreciation for the excellent cooperation with ESCAP, including a memorandum of understanding signed in 2003 that had encouraged closer cooperation between the two organizations through the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the project recently concluded on support to the Regional Haze Action Plan of the ASEAN countries. WMO would continue to support ESCAP's work in the region.

329. The secretariat expressed appreciation for the continued support from all ESCAP donor and participating developing countries and partners, which was essential for its technical cooperation programme in the region. The secretariat indicated that it would take into account the recommendations made by the delegations to further increase the effectiveness of technical cooperation activities. The Commission was also assured that the secretariat would continue to exert its best efforts to address the needs of the developing member countries and territories in attaining the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular for the least developed, small island and landlocked countries and those with economies in transition. The secretariat acknowledged with appreciation the pledges of intended contributions by members and associate members as a reaffirmation of their continuing commitment to the mandate and objectives for which the Commission had been established.

330. The Commission adopted resolution 60/3 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

331. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1322 and Add.1 containing the report of ACPR, which had been introduced by the representative of Bangladesh, the ACPR Rapporteur.

332. During the period under review, September 2003–April 2004, ACPR had held eight regular sessions, three Informal Working Group meetings and two special sessions. At its two special sessions, ACPR had reviewed in detail ESCAP's draft strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007. At its regular sessions, ACPR had considered a number of other issues related to programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, including the programme performance report for 2002-2003 and the proposed calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2004–March 2005. A monthly briefing by the secretariat on "ongoing ESCAP initiatives" enabled ACPR members to provide input on projects during their implementation stage.

333. In keeping with its terms of reference, ACPR had maintained close cooperation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission and had advised and assisted the Executive Secretary on issues relevant to the work of ESCAP.

334. ACPR had been actively involved in reviewing the outcomes of recent sessions of the Commission, in particular the plan to implement resolutions adopted at the fifty-ninth and previous sessions of the Commission, and the major outcomes of the second phase of its fifty-ninth session. It had provided extensive input to the Government of China and the secretariat in planning for the sixtieth session of the Commission, as well as the tentative date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-first session. ACPR had also reviewed and discussed, as appropriate, the preparations for and outcomes of many other important meetings recently organized by the secretariat, including the first sessions of the three new thematic committees as well as the Subcommittee on Statistics, the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok on 17 and 18 November 2003, and the eighth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, held in Shanghai, China, on 20 and 21 April 2004.

335. Other matters considered by ACPR had included issues related to holding Commission sessions away from ESCAP headquarters, channels of communication between the secretariat and members and associate members, and the forthcoming visit of the

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to ESCAP in June 2004.

336. The Commission noted the important role of ACPR in providing a constructive channel of communication both between members and the secretariat and among members themselves. That close consultative process had further increased transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the members and associate members. The Commission expressed appreciation for the Executive Secretary's practice of providing ACPR with regular briefings on such issues as his participation in outside meetings and on coordination with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system. It also expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its excellent servicing of ACPR meetings.

337. The Commission expressed the hope that efforts would be continued to make ACPR's input to ESCAP activities and the work of the Commission more meaningful. More lively debates in ACPR, with more active involvement by all concerned, would further enhance ACPR's usefulness to both ESCAP and its members.

338. The Commission emphasized that priority issues for ACPR should include the implementation of ESCAP resolutions and decisions, exchange of views on coordination between ESCAP and other organizations in the region, various administrative and financial aspects, and briefings on technical cooperation activities funded through regular budget and extrabudgetary resources.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

339. The Commission had before it the report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1323).

340. The Commission noted that, during the previous year, CCOP had successfully carried out most of its planned activities to enhance coordination of the geoscience programmes of the member countries, continuing human resources development and institutional capacity-building and facilitating the flow of technical information between the member countries and the cooperating countries and organizations.

341. In particular, it noted with interest the progress made in the implementation of several major programmes of CCOP: the dig[illegible] compilation of geoscientific maps project (phase IV): groundwater and geothermal databases, petroleum policy and management and the resource evaluation and planning project (phase II) and the global mineral resources assessment. It took note of the ongoing project on the development of geographic information systems and remote sensing techniques for landslide hazards analysis.

342. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong commitment and firm support of the member countries regarding the work of CCOP and its continued cooperation with ESCAP in exchanging information and conducting technical activities.

343. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the international community's support for the activities of CCOP remained strong.

Mekong River Commission

344. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1324).

345. The Commission took note of the important achievements and progress made by MRC in 2003 in the implementation of its core, support and sector programmes. The core programmes, the Basin Development Plan, Water Utilization Programme, Environment Programme and the recently approved Flood Management and Mitigation Programme, which were central to the purpose of MRC, had addressed the key issues of basin development and progressed well with strong support from the donor community. The Commission noted that significant progress had been made in the implementation of other programmes and projects, such as the Fisheries Programme, Agriculture, Irrigation and Forest Programme, Navigation Programme, Hydrological Network Improvement Project and Capacity-building Programme.

346. The Commission was informed of strengthened cooperation between the four downstream riparian countries of MRC and the other two upstream co-basin countries, China and Myanmar. It noted that the exchange of hydrological information in the 2003 flood season between the Ministry of Water Resources of China and MRC had taken place for the first time in compliance with the agreement of 1 April 2003 on the subject.

347. The Commission also noted with appreciation the collaboration of MRC with ESCAP in human resources development for promoting strategic planning and management in the area of water resources and integrating inland water infrastructure within an intermodal transport network as a contribution to the implementation of Commission resolution 56/1 of 7 June 2000 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009.

Typhoon Committee

348. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1325).

349. The Commission noted with satisfaction the significant achievements of the Committee in the meteorological and hydrological components of its regional cooperation programme implementation plan related to weather forecasting and warnings, flood forecasting, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, and enhancement of public awareness of typhoons and water-related hazards. It also noted the progress made in the implementation of a number of activities under the training and research components.

350. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Typhoon Committee secretariat had been successfully developing mutually beneficial linkages with international institutions and projects working in the area of disaster reduction, such as the International Flood Network, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center.

351. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong commitment and firm support of all the Committee's members for its works. The continued cooperation of ESCAP with WMO in supporting the Committee was also noted.

352. The Commission took note of the ongoing review of the Typhoon Committee's operations and structure.

Panel on Tropical Cyclones

353. The Commission had before it the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1326).

354. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by the Panel in 2003 under the meteorological, hydrological, natural disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research components of its work programme. In particular, it noted with appreciation the important role played by the New Delhi-based Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre for Tropical Cyclones for the Panel region. It also noted that, under the hydrological component, significant improvements had been made in flood forecasting techniques and modelling, real-time monitoring of water levels and rainfall, risk mapping and participation of stakeholders in flood warning systems in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It further noted the modernization of observation and telecommunication networks and forecasting systems aiming at further improvement of tropical cyclone monitoring, forecasting and warning services in a number of the Panel's member countries.

355. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the members of the Panel continued their good cooperation in the exchange of hydrological data in international river basins for the further improvement of flood forecasting services. It also noted the efforts of the members to minimize loss of life and damage to property through improved weather and flood forecasting and improved transmission of warnings to the public through the mass media.

356. The Commission expressed appreciation for the long-standing cooperation between ESCAP and WMO in supporting the Panel in the preparations for and mitigation of disasters caused by tropical cyclones.

Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-first session of the Commission

357. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1327. It decided that the sixty-first session would be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, tentatively from 21 to 27 April 2005.

358. The Commission endorsed "Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency" as the theme topic for its sixty-first session. The Monterrey Consensus covered six areas that were of critical importance for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, as contained in the Millennium Declaration, as follows:

(a) Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development;

(b) Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows;

(c) International trade as an engine of development;

(d) Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development;

(e) External debt;

(f) Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

The objective of the study on the theme topic would be to take stock of the progress made in the Asian and Pacific region in implementing the consensus reached in the above-mentioned areas. It would identify gaps and propose appropriate measures to address key issues of concern to the region.

359. The Commission took note of the intention of the Government of Indonesia to host the sixty-second session of the Commission in 2006.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTIETH SESSION

60/1. Shanghai Declaration[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Adopts the following Declaration:

Shanghai Declaration

I. General provisions

1. We, members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on the occasion of the historic sixtieth session of the Commission, express our deep appreciation to the Government and citizens of the People's Republic of China for hosting the present session in Shanghai, the birthplace of the Commission, and to the government and citizens of Shanghai municipality.

2. We reiterate our commitment to multilateralism and to addressing global issues through dialogue, consultation and cooperation.

3. We reaffirm that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence.

4. We support further reform of the United Nations with a view to promoting its important role in peace and development and in establishing a cohesive and effective system for responding to global threats and challenges as well as enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through increased coordination and cooperation between the various agencies and their programmes within the United Nations system.

5. We note the diversity in the levels of development of countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region and the special needs of the least developed economies, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition.

6. We emphasize the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its mandate as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.

7. We reaffirm our determination to strengthen further the role, capacity and efficiency of ESCAP to respond more effectively to the needs of its members and associate members and to existing and new global challenges.

8. We welcome the achievements of the region in economic and social development, including progress made in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes and final documents of major United Nations summits and international conferences.

9. We renew our commitment to enhancing subregional and regional cooperation and remain conscious of the need to further improve national capacities in order to promote sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region.

10. In this context, we acknowledge the importance of the main theme of the Shanghai session, "Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation".

11. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation, South-North cooperation and triangular cooperation play important roles in promoting development and contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

12. We note that globalization offers opportunities and challenges to the world, particularly for the developing countries, and that it is only through greater economic growth coupled with broad, sustained and collaborative efforts that globalization can be made fully inclusive and equitable so that the poor are not left behind. At the same time, the benefits of globalization can be realized only when environmental pressure from the impact of globalization is properly addressed through strengthened common strategies in the Asian and Pacific region.

13. We welcome the conclusion and holding of the signing ceremony of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, and look forward to the first meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement as part of the efforts to strengthen the development of infrastructure and foster closer trade relations within the region.

14. We reaffirm the importance of focusing ESCAP work on its three thematic areas: poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

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[2] See paragraphs 90 to 122 above.

II. Poverty reduction

15. In the area of poverty reduction, we will strive:

(a) To maximize the contribution of economic growth in reducing poverty and hunger, by consolidating successes and facilitating the sharing of best practices, with a view to halving, by 2015, the proportion of people suffering from poverty and hunger, thus making the region a forerunner in the global campaign against poverty;

(b) To implement policies aimed at engendering confidence in the operation of markets to assist in the creation of a favourable business environment;

(c) To emphasize the importance of according priority to the fight against hunger and poverty and, in this context, put in place the necessary policy and institutional framework and implement programmes that are designed to overcome hunger and poverty;

(d) To encourage the efficient utilization of existing financial, physical and human resources and the involvement of all stakeholders, including Governments, international organizations, international and regional development and financial institutions, donors and civil society, to achieve the internationally agreed sustainable development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(e) To eliminate corruption at all levels, in that regard welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and inviting all member States to sign and ratify it as soon as possible in order to ensure its rapid entry into force.

III. Managing globalization

16. In the area of managing globalization, we will strive:

(a) To address the regional and interregional aspects of the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

(b) To revitalize the multilateral trading system, taking into account the importance of promoting the objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration of ensuring an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system;

(c) To work towards a successful, timely and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha negotiations;

(d) To take action to enable those countries in the region that are not yet members of the World Trade Organization to accede to it in order to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system;

(e) To strengthen national capacities to negotiate, conclude and implement multilateral and regional agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional trade and investment flows;

(f) To implement, in a timely fashion, the various regional and subregional economic cooperation initiatives in promoting trade and investment, with a view to expanding economic interaction and promoting stable growth and prosperity for the entire region;

(g) To mobilize investment from domestic and foreign resources by strengthening and developing domestic financial systems and creating an enabling environment;

(h) To advance current efforts to reform the international financial architecture as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus and promote the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in those efforts;

(i) To take action at the regional level to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which some of the salient features of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific were reflected to move the region towards a more sustainable path to development, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, while taking note of the recent follow-up activities, including the Kyoto Ministerial Declaration and the Jeju Initiative;

(j) To make the next ten years a decade of economic growth and sustainable development in the region, striving to meet the various internationally agreed goals;

(k) To undertake regular studies and analyses of regional environmental trends, strengthen national capacities for protecting the environment consistent with national commitments and support regional and subregional environmental cooperation;

(l) To assist in capacity-building, formulation and implementation of strategies and action plans for the sustainable use of water resources with a special focus on problems of water quality and access to safe drinking water for the poor;

(m) To promote capacity-building in sustainable energy development, enhanced utilization of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement and to support subregional cooperation in energy sector development;

(n) To develop an integrated intermodal transport network in Asia and the Pacific as well as Asia-Europe transport corridors;

(o) To implement the Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held at Geneva in December 2003, and take action to achieve the objectives of the World Summit as enunciated in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted at the first phase, and to prepare for the second phase in 2005, paying special attention to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition;

(p) To promote regional cooperation and effective integration of satellite-based information and communication technology applications with other information technologies for informed sustainable economic and social development planning and management and improved quality of life;

(q) To promote the development of transport and tourism in the region so as to provide opportunities for increased national, regional and international trade and better access to health and education services, and to promote cultural exchanges.

IV. Emerging social issues

17. In the area of emerging social issues, we will strive:

(a) To promote social policy development and the mainstreaming of social dimensions in national development programmes;

(b) To improve the development and delivery of basic social services, such as education, health and nutrition, focusing on vulnerable population groups;

(c) To enhance cooperation in capacity-building in public health, inter alia, through the exchange of information and the sharing of experience, as well as research and training programmes focusing on surveillance, prevention, control, response, care and treatment in respect of infectious diseases;

(d) To coordinate a more effective and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and other serious diseases in the region by prioritizing effective strategies against them in national development planning, committing sufficient resources, mobilizing the private sector and civil society, enhancing sustained and comprehensive intervention and strengthening regional cooperation in establishing preventive measures and increasing the availability of affordable quality drugs;

(e) To foster an integrated social safety net, and particularly to establish a social safety net which provides necessary assistance to the unemployed, the poor and senior citizens as well as other vulnerable groups;

(f) To promote and support gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women;

(g) To promote human security in the region through greater regional cooperation, especially for vulnerable people;

(h) To support and encourage the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the business community, for the promotion of social development.

V. Overarching issues

18. On overarching issues, we will strive:

(a) To fully implement the Monterrey Consensus;

(b) To promote regional cooperation by inviting the United Nations regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and processes, as appropriate, to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, which synthesizes and prioritizes the key elements of major international conferences held in prior years, and to provide input to the discussions of the Economic and Social Council on the cross-sectoral thematic issues to be addressed during the coordination segment of its substantive session, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

(c) To intensify our efforts to effectively implement in the Asian and Pacific region the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade;

(d) To implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the Almaty Plan of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;

(e) To promote initiatives for the least developed countries in the context of South-South cooperation by implementing projects that address the special needs of those countries;

(f) To support the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and work towards a positive outcome at the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in Mauritius;

(g) To strengthen and support the implementation of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia;

(h) To encourage the establishment of a regional network of research institutions and universities in the ESCAP region by 2006 in order to promote education, technical skills development and technology transfer through the exchange of programmes, students and academics.

VI. Strengthening of ESCAP

19. We reaffirm the vital role of ESCAP in fostering sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

20. We request the Executive Secretary to design programmes, within ESCAP's existing mandate and resources, that reflect the overall vision contained in this

Declaration, to present the programme of work for endorsement by the Commission and to report on these matters to the Commission at future sessions.

21. We resolve, therefore, to support efforts by the Executive Secretary to mobilize and make effective use of additional financial and in-kind resources in support of ESCAP activities and for the further revitalization of ESCAP in line with the needs and priorities of its members and associate members.

22. We also request the Commission to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of the present Declaration.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/2. Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the internationally agreed goals, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the health-related development goals,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 58/3 of 27 October 2003 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health,

Noting that in that resolution the General Assembly invited the regional commissions to cooperate closely with Member States, the private sector and civil society in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases,

Also noting Commission resolution 59/1 of 4 September 2003 on regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

Noting with concern that more than eight million people already live with HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region and that HIV in the region is likely to continue to spread rapidly, and welcoming the joint declaration of the "3 by 5 Initiative" by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

Mindful that the fight against severe acute respiratory syndrome, the first severe infectious disease to emerge in the twenty-first century, and other epidemics is far from over,

Noting with particular concern the outbreak of avian influenza in the poultry population, and recognizing its impact on human health as well as on the economy,

Noting, in this connection, the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Current Poultry Disease Situation adopted at Bangkok on 28 January 2004 by the agriculture and health ministers and senior officials of the countries concerned,

Recognizing that Governments have the primary responsibility for the provision of social services,

Also recognizing the constraints that many countries face in improving health systems and interventions because of their limited human and financial resources for health and insufficient development of the capacity to plan and manage human resources to respond to changes in priorities,

Further recognizing the important role of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in combating these infectious diseases,

Welcoming the close cooperation between the World Health Organization and ESCAP in order to enhance the regional responses to health and development issues,

Recalling the Asian and Pacific region's pioneering contribution to the development and implementation of the primary health-care approach to health for all, promoted by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* members and associate members:

(a) To implement domestic measures to counter the impact of avian influenza on human health, livestock production and economic development, noting the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, particularly to strengthen reporting and surveillance systems;

(b) To consider participating in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

(c) To further integrate public health into their economic and social development strategies, inter alia, through the establishment and improvement of effective public health mechanisms, in particular systems of disease surveillance, response, control, prevention, treatment and information exchange, as well as the recruitment and training of public health personnel;

(d) To raise professional and public awareness of the importance of public health and mobilize the participation of educational institutions, civil society and the mass media in promoting good public health practices;

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[3] See paragraphs 233 to 241 above.

(e) To unite in securing a regional commitment to strengthening cooperation on capacity-building in public health;

(f) To improve regional public health preparedness and response systems, including systems of prevention and monitoring of infectious diseases, to better cope with major diseases, inter alia, in cases of global or regional outbreaks of new diseases;

2. *Encourages* donors, including Governments, the private sector, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and regional and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue to support countries in the Asian and Pacific region through such means as:

(a) Providing funding and technical support to countries that face significant risks in their efforts to combat infectious diseases and epidemics;

(b) Facilitating South-South and North-South cooperation to benefit the Asian and Pacific region, as part of an integral response aimed at building effective public health institutions and practices;

(c) Considering integrating health dimensions into their strategies, work programmes, budget plans, projects and activities, to strengthen regional public health capacity-building, as a priority for the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the Asian and Pacific region;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to coordinate closely with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, to address the following:

(a) Assisting members and associate members in their capacity-building by mainstreaming health concerns into diverse development sectors in support of the fulfilment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the region, inter alia, in the programme of work of ESCAP;

(b) Promoting coordinated regional action in strengthening capacity-building in public health, inter alia, through the Subcommittee on Health and Development, which is scheduled to hold its first session in December 2004, as well as in facilitating the exchange of information and the sharing of experience;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/3. Work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947, by which the Council established the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in particular paragraphs 1 (d) and (e) of that resolution, regarding advisory services and technical assistance,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, through which ESCAP was mandated to serve as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region and as an executing agency for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects,

Cognizant of the scope of the responsibilities of the Commission, the domain of which comprises the largest region in the world in geographical coverage and contains 62 per cent of the world's population as well as the majority of the world's poor,

Aware of the focus of the work of the Commission in three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

1. *Recognizes* with appreciation that ESCAP has been implementing a number of technical cooperation projects that strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members in the development and implementation of policies and programmes in economic and social fields;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those traditional donors which have made significant voluntary contributions to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and invites non-traditional donors to increase their contributions;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary to focus on high-priority, results-oriented and demand-based projects and requests him to implement such projects in an effective and efficient manner;

4. *Recognizes* the need for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP to be guided by the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences, including the Doha Development Agenda, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus, the Almaty Programme of Action and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;

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[4] See paragraphs 326 to 329 above.

5. *Also recognizes* that ESCAP has comparative strengths and advantages in certain technical cooperation activities in the Asian and Pacific region and requests the Executive Secretary, in carrying out its technical cooperation activities, to continue to attach high priority to the following areas:

(a) Capacity-building for members and associate members to plan and implement effective policies and programmes in economic and social fields through training activities, such as organizing seminars, workshops and the exchange of experts;

(b) Provision of advisory services at the request of members or associate members to strengthen their capacity in responding effectively to the challenges of globalization in the region;

(c) Identification of existing good practices in the region and promotion of their introduction in places where feasibility studies yield positive results;

(d) Enhancement of awareness among members and associate members and facilitation of the dissemination of relevant information;

6. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to implement the projects in close cooperation with the participating Governments and relevant international organizations and bodies as well as in partnership with the private sector and relevant non-governmental organizations;

7. *Also urges* the Executive Secretary to pay particular attention to the special needs of socially vulnerable groups and to the gender dimension when implementing projects;

8. *Further urges* the Executive Secretary to pay particular attention to the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition when implementing projects;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Executive Secretary for actively monitoring and evaluating its projects and urges him to continue to do so in order to determine the effectiveness of those projects and to draw lessons therefrom for improved planning and implementation of future ESCAP projects;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the following in his report to the Commission at its sixty-first session under the agenda item entitled "Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions":

(a) His efforts to mobilize resources in areas such as broadening the donor base, cost-sharing, private sector funding and other innovative means in view of the trend towards declining voluntary contributions for technical cooperation activities;

(b) His strategy paper and action plan for technical cooperation activities for the year 2005 and thereafter, taking into account the priorities of ESCAP and recognizing that the implementation of projects is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

(c) The results of the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing and recently completed projects for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 9 above.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/4. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the importance of international road transport to the development of the region's economy, trade and tourism,

Also recognizing that an intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network would play a catalytic role in the coordinated development of international highways in the region and between Asia and Europe,

Recalling the establishment of a working group to develop an intergovernmental agreement for the Asian Highway network, as recommended by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held in Seoul on 16 and 17 November 2001, and endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session,

Also recalling the decision of the Commission at its fifty-ninth session to convene an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting to consider and adopt the agreement in the second half of 2003 and its hope that the agreement could be concluded at the meeting in November 2003,

Welcoming the unanimous adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network by the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok on 17 and 18 November 2003,

Recalling the priority area of infrastructure development and maintenance identified in the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport

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[5] See paragraphs 174 and 175 above.

Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August 2003, and acknowledging that the Asian Highway network provides transit transport opportunities,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Japan for its valuable support for the development and formalization of the Asian Highway network and for the assistance which it provided in preparing for and convening the Intergovernmental Meeting,

Also expressing its appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the signing ceremony for the Agreement in Shanghai on 26 April 2004,

Convinced that the Agreement will strengthen relations between member countries, promote international trade and tourism through coordinated development of the Asian Highway network and have a substantial positive impact on the region by achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

1. *Invites* all the relevant members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to become parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network in order to ensure the speedy entry into force of the Agreement;

2. *Also invites* the international and regional financing institutions and multilateral and bilateral donors to provide financial and technical support for the development of the Asian Highway network and related infrastructure, particularly taking into account the special needs of landlocked developing countries;

3. *Further invites* subregional organizations to promote the Agreement and accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network in their respective subregions;

4. *Encourages* landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours that are members of ESCAP to enter into bilateral or subregional transit traffic facilitation agreements which will enable the Asian Highway network to provide further tangible transit transport opportunities within the scope of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist member countries in becoming parties to the Agreement;

(b) To accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network within the ESCAP work programme;

(c) To collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and subregional organizations for the development of the Asian Highway network;

(d) To effectively discharge the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement;

(e) To report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/5. Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific,

Also recalling the host country agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations, signed on 29 April 1981, and the establishment of the Centre with effect from that date,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan, and the facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia,

Taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation of the Centre carried out in 2003 and the need to integrate the work of the Centre into the ESCAP programme of work,

Noting the decisions of the Governing Board of the Centre at its twenty-second session, held in Bogor, Indonesia, on 15 and 16 January 2004, to further align the programme of work of the Centre with ESCAP priorities and to discuss a possible change of name and terms of reference for the Centre,

Also noting the endorsement of the draft Statute by the Governing Board of the Centre, at its extraordinary session held at Bangkok on 22 March 2004,

Adopts the Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

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[6] See paragraphs 292 and 293 above.

Annex

STATUTE OF THE CENTRE FOR ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY THROUGH SECONDARY CROPS DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Establishment

1. The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "CGPRT Centre"), established in April 1981 pursuant to Commission resolution 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and its Statute adopted by Commission resolution 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982, shall continue in existence under the title "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific" (hereinafter referred to as "CAPSA" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present Statute.

2. The membership of CAPSA is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

4. The objective of CAPSA is to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crops agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asian and Pacific region.

Functions

5. The Centre will achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:

- Coordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops
- Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders
- Research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations
- Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction
- Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures
- Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts
- Advisory services

Status and organization

6. CAPSA shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff, and a Technical Committee.

7. CAPSA is located in Bogor, Indonesia.

8. The activities of CAPSA shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. CAPSA shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative nominated by the Government of Indonesia and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary

shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. CAPSA shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. CAPSA shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the operations of CAPSA.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Director's observations with respect thereto, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairman of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be urged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which these contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for the activities of CAPSA.

26. The financial resources of CAPSA shall be administered in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present Statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by this Statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by this Statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of this Statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present Statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission. Members and associate members elected to the Governing Board of the former CGPRT Centre at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission will serve as members of the Governing Council of CAPSA until the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006.

60/6. Revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre[7]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on the Commission's activities in the Pacific, in particular resolutions 237 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on institutional changes to increase the effectiveness of the Commission's role in the economic and social development of Pacific island developing countries, 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 committing ESCAP to take special measures in favour of the Pacific island developing countries and increase the relevance and effectiveness of the Commission's role and activities in the Pacific and 48/9 of 23 April 1992 on redeployment of staffing resources to strengthen the advisory capacity of the Pacific Operations Centre in the fields of economic and financial management, social development and market development and trade,

Also recalling its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular annex VI, by which it revised and focused the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to undertake periodic reviews and analyses of special problems of Pacific island developing countries and territories, so as to mobilize ideas for promoting policy options to maximize the benefits they obtain from globalization, assist in strengthening their capacity to implement poverty reduction policies and programmes and address emerging social issues in the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

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[7] See paragraphs 244 to 253 above.

Recognizing that the Millennium Declaration articulated important goals and specific, measurable and time-bound targets to focus poverty interventions and interventions in the education, health and environmental sectors of Pacific island developing countries and territories by 2005,

Also recognizing that the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States set forth specific actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States, in such areas as biodiversity, climate change, coastal and marine resource management, sustainable tourism and trade,

Further recognizing that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, inter alia, promotes the view that trade is a means by which poverty reduction strategies could be made more sustainable and by which the living standards of people living in least developed countries could be improved,

Reaffirming the desire of Pacific members and associate members to participate effectively in and benefit from the Commission's activities as a whole,

Also reaffirming the desire to revitalize the Pacific Operations Centre and strengthen its role as an effective representative office of ESCAP in the Pacific which can provide capacity-strengthening assistance to Pacific island developing countries and territories on a long-term sustainable basis,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Vanuatu for the generous contributions which it has made since 1984 as host of the Centre,

Bearing in mind that assistance to Pacific island developing countries and territories will need to take into account their unique economic and social situations in view of their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards,

Appreciating the progress made thus far by the Executive Secretary in implementing the key institutional changes for the revitalization of the Centre in line with the recommendations of the independent evaluation carried out in early 2003,

Welcoming the revised mission statement of the Centre clarifying its role as the representative office of ESCAP in the Pacific charged with providing capacity-strengthening assistance that Pacific island developing countries and territories require in order to achieve internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Noting that preparations are under way for the relocation of the Centre in 2004 from Port Vila to Suva as announced to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session and reflected in the Commission's annual report, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 2003, in order to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the Centre's operations and place increased emphasis on regular cooperation with donor agencies and engagement of regional organizations, most of which are located in Suva,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare amendments to the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to provide for the possibility of convening sessions of the Special Body in the Pacific prior to Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and alternately between Bangkok and the location of the Pacific Operations Centre;

2. *Notes* the establishment of an Advisory Council for the Centre, comprising representatives of the Governments of Pacific island developing countries and territories, and of Australia and New Zealand, to meet biennially at the venue of the sessions of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, to provide advice on the Centre's work programme priorities;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Executive Secretary to establish subprogramme 3, on the development of Pacific island countries, with the objective of building policy and management capacity in Pacific island developing countries and territories by facilitating the design and implementation of policies that focus on poverty reduction, managing the impact of globalization and addressing emerging social issues to achieve the internationally agreed goals and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to mobilize the resources required, within available resources, to relocate the Centre from Vanuatu to Fiji in 2004 and augment its Professional staff, within available resources, in the biennium 2006-2007 to enable it to meet the demand for services from Pacific island developing countries and territories and respond effectively to the above-mentioned institutional changes;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to make effective use of the Pacific Trust Fund for the revitalization of the Centre and the implementation of the present resolution, including capacity-development activities in support of the Pacific region, and to carry out needs assessments and evaluations;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/7. Pacific Urban Agenda[8]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the call for a Pacific Urban Agenda made following the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Economic Ministers Meeting in 1999,

Also noting that, at its eighth session, held in Shanghai, China, on 20 and 21 April 2004, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries unanimously endorsed the submission of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixtieth session,

Recognizing the Goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, relating to poverty, in particular, halving the number of poor by 2015, and making a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

Also recognizing that Habitat II called for improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers and good urban management to prevent the urbanization of poverty,

Noting the significant increase in populations, in particular the urban populations in the Pacific island countries, the planning and management challenges that confront local and central governments and civil society and the need to build community cohesion and address community development and livelihood needs within poor urban communities,

Also noting the initiatives and case studies around the Pacific and tools to address good urban governance, participation, urban development and poverty concerns, particularly the concept of an "urban social charter", in Papua New Guinea, the Samoan Planning and Urban Management Agency and the Urban Policy Action Plan in Fiji,

Recognizing the intensifying linkages between urban and rural areas and the need to give due attention to rural development and the improvement of conditions in rural areas, and noting that the rural-urban interface, which is changing through improvements in infrastructure development, should be recognized as a critical element in national economic development, and considered in the formulation of development strategies,

1. *Endorses* the Pacific Urban Agenda which was discussed and developed by officials at a workshop convened by ESCAP, the Urban Governance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Nadi, Fiji, from 1 to 4 December 2003;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to accord priority to the implementation of the Agenda;

3. *Calls upon* Pacific members and associate members to address the actions outlined in the Agenda, in particular in the areas of:

(a) Serviced shelter for the urban poor, by focusing on housing policy, land tenure and land management arrangements, including land zoning, integrated urban and rural housing development policy, self-help and services schemes, and by involving landowners to achieve greater recognition and involvement in land management, housing markets and building codes;

(b) The urban environment, including the provision of infrastructure, the integration of environmental and disaster management planning into urban planning and management, strengthening public health systems and addressing institutional and legislative frameworks;

(c) Urban security, including good governance at the local council level in particular, addressing urban poverty and urban employment needs, identifying vulnerable groups and addressing personal security issues by developing community policing and other approaches to personal security and developing a collaborative approach between law enforcement agencies and civil society to build community cohesion, strengthen partnerships among community groups and give a greater voice to community groups, civil society and social support agencies;

4. *Invites* partner agencies, including regional organizations, to provide technical and financial support, and members and associate members to cooperate and to coordinate the implementation of the Agenda, inter alia, through regional programmes;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support members and associate members in assessing progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda, to convene a subregional workshop in 2006 for exchange of experience and capacity-building requirements and to report to the Commission at its sixty-second session on the outcome of this exercise.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

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[8] See paragraphs 242 and 243 above.

Annex I

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities required under the resolutions adopted at the sixtieth session of the Commission.

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Emerging Social Issues		First session Bangkok 4-6 September 2003	E/ESCAP/1310
Chairperson:	Hon. Solomoni Naivalu (Fiji)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	H.E. Mr. Shamsaddin Khanbabayev (Azerbaijan) H.E. Mr. B.S. Baswan (India) H.E. Mr. Udval Natsag (Mongolia) H.E. Mr. Antonio S. Lopez (Philippines) H.E. Mr. Moon Kyung-Tae (Republic of Korea) H.E. Mr. Sajith Premadasa (Sri Lanka)		
Rapporteur:	Ms. Daisy Selvaranee Naesarajoo (Malaysia)		
Committee on Poverty Reduction		First session Bangkok 8-10 October 2003	E/ESCAP/1306
Co-Chairpersons:	Ms. Kumari Navaratne (Sri Lanka) Mr. Oh Jong Nam (Republic of Korea)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Ercan Dansuk (Turkey)		
Committee on Managing Globalization		First session Bangkok 19-21 November 2003	E/ESCAP/1307
Chairperson:	Mr. Wu Hequan (China)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Zuiten Tsukamoto (Japan) Mr. Oleg V. Skvortsov (Russian Federation) Mr. Ahurov Abdurakhim (Tajikistan) Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Sinh (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Josua Boselawa Turaganivalu (Fiji)		
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		Eighth session Shanghai, China 20-21 April 2004	E/ESCAP/1312
Chairperson:	H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Qalirea Talakuli Cakobau (Fiji)		
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar (Federated States of Micronesia)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Ronald Unusi (Solomon Islands)		

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[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Annex III

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTIETH SESSION (LISTED BY AGENDA ITEM)

Agenda item	*Title*	*Symbol*
1	Provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L.156/Rev.1
	Annotated provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L.157 and Corr.1
2 (a)	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	E/ESCAP/1304
2 (b)	Policy issues for the ESCAP region: meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation	E/ESCAP/1305
3 (a)	Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its first session	E/ESCAP/1306
3 (b)	Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its first session	E/ESCAP/1307
	Progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization	E/ESCAP/1308
	Report on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation	E/ESCAP/1309
	The Doha Development Agenda and Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference: implications for the ESCAP region	E/ESCAP/1328
	Report on the preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005	E/ESCAP/1329
3 (c)	Report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its first session	E/ESCAP/1310
	Emerging social issues: trends, issues and strategies	E/ESCAP/1311
4	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its eighth session	E/ESCAP/1312
5 (a)	Programme planning and evaluation: draft strategic framework for the period 2006-2007	E/ESCAP/1313/Rev.1
5 (b)	Programme planning and evaluation: programme performance report for 2002-2003	E/ESCAP/1314
5 (c)	Programme planning and evaluation: proposed programme changes for 2004-2005	E/ESCAP/1315
5 (d)	Programme planning and evaluation: realignment of the work of the regional institutions	E/ESCAP/1316
	Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	E/ESCAP/1317 and Corr.1

Agenda item	*Title*	*Symbol*
	Report of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1318
	Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1319
	Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	E/ESCAP/1320
6	Overview of the technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions	E/ESCAP/1321
7	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1322 and Add.1
8	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	E/ESCAP/1323
	Report of the Mekong River Commission	E/ESCAP/1324
	Report of the Typhoon Committee	E/ESCAP/1325
	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	E/ESCAP/1326
9	Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-first session of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1327

Annex IV

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 2003

A. List of publications*

Poverty and development

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 10, No. 1, June 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2256) (E.03.II.F.33); No. 2, December 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2275) (E.03.II.F.57)

Bulletin on Asia-Pacific Perspectives 2003/04: Asia-Pacific Economies: Maintaining Dynamism (ST/ESCAP/2271) (E.03.II.F.52)

Critical Analysis of Urban Policies and their Impact on Urban Poverty Eradication: A Review of Tools, Techniques and Practices (ST/ESCAP/2269) (E.03.II.F.48)

Development Papers, No. 23, *Rural Development and Poverty in South Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2272) (E.03.II.F.54)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2003: Asia-Pacific Economies: Resilience in Challenging Times (ST/ESCAP/2233) (E.03.II.F.11)

Managing Globalization in Selected Countries with Economies in Transition (ST/ESCAP/2274) (E.03.II.F.58)

Promoting the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Meeting the Challenges of Poverty Reduction (ST/ESCAP/2253) (E.03.II.F.29)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2302) (E.04.II.F.12)

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1996-2000 (2001-2002 Edition) (ST/ESCAP/2229) (E.03.II.F.9)

Integrating Unpaid Work into National Policies (ST/ESCAP/2236) (E.03.II.F.14)

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXXIII, No. 1, March 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2248) (E.03.II.F.23); No. 2, June 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2262) (E.03.II.F.41); No. 3, September 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2282) (E.03.II.F.63); No. 4, December 2003 (ST/ESCAP/2321) (E.04.II.F.27)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 128-131

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2002 (ST/ESCAP/2230) (E/F.03.II.F.1)

Trade and investment

Building Capacity for Technology Transfer for Small and Medium Enterprises in Least Developed Countries (ST/ESCAP/2306)

Current Issues on Industry, Trade and Investment, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2276) (E.03.II.F.37); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2298) (E.04.II.F.6)

Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, eleventh edition (ST/ESCAP/2281) (E.03.II.F.64)

Initiatives for E-commerce Capacity-building of Small and Medium Enterprises (ST/ESCAP/2261) (E.03.II.F.38)

Investment Promotion and Enterprise Development Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2259) (E.03.II.F.36); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2322) (E.04.II.F.9)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 50. *Foreign Direct Investment in Central Asian and Caucasian Economies: Policies and Issues* (ST/ESCAP/2255); 51. *The Doha Development Agenda: Perspectives from the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/2278)

TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin, Nos. 61-72

Traders' Manual for Least Developed Countries: Bhutan (ST/ESCAP/2297); *Nepal* (ST/ESCAP/2311)

Transport and tourism

A Guide to the Application of Public Participation in Planning and Policy Formulation towards Sustainable Transport Development (ST/ESCAP/2308)

Asian Highway Handbook (ST/ESCAP/2303)

Barrier-Free Tourism for People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2316)

ESCAP Tourism Review, No. 23, *Ecotourism Development in the Pacific Islands* (ST/ESCAP/2300); No. 24, *Promotion of Buddhist Tourism Circuits in Selected Asian Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2310)

Improvement of Transport and Logistics Facilities to Expand Port Hinterlands: Policy Guidelines (ST/ESCAP/2299)

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* Where applicable, United Nations publication sales numbers are shown in parentheses and start with the letter "E".

Manual on Modernization of Inland Water Transport for Integration within a Multimodal Transport System (ST/ESCAP/2285)

Mobilizing a Response to HIV/AIDS in the Maritime Industry (ST/ESCAP/2247) (E.03.II.F.22)

Policy Alleviation through Sustainable Tourism Development (ST/ESCAP/2265) (E.03.II.F.46)

Prospects for Shipping and Port Development in South Asia (ST/ESCAP/2268)

Review of Developments in Transport in the ESCAP Region, 2003: Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2307)

The Restructuring of Railways (ST/ESCAP/2313)

Training Manual on Logistics and Supply Chain Management (ST/ESCAP/2305)

Training Manual on the Operational Aspects of Multimodal Transport (ST/ESCAP/2304)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 72, *Private Sector Participation in the Transport Sector: Institutions in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E.72) (E.03.II.F.42); No. 73, *Private Sector Participation in the Transport Sector: Policy Measures and Experiences in Selected Countries* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E.73) (E.03.II.F.43)

Environment and sustainable development

Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region, vol. 17, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Timor-Leste* (ST/ESCAP/2267) (E.03.II.F.34)

Atlas of Urban Geology, vol. 14, *The Ground Beneath Our Feet: A Factor in Urban Planning* (ST/ESCAP/2241) (E.03.II.F.17)

Cities and Sustainable Development: Lessons and Experiences from Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2290)

Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific 1999 and 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2263) (E.03.II.F.40)

Environment and Natural Resources News, vol. 2, No. 4, December 2002; vol. 3, No 1, March 2003; No. 2, June 2003; No. 3, September 2003; No. 4, December 2003

Exploring Timor-Leste: Mineral and Hydrocarbon Potential (ST/ESCAP/2243) (E.03.II.F.21)

Guidelines on the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes (ST/ESCAP/2296)

Implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism in Asia and the Pacific: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities (ST/ESCAP/2292)

Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series, vol. 8, *Policies, Regulatory Regimes and Management Practices for Investment Promotion and Sustainable Development of the Mineral Resources Sector in Economies in Transition and Developing Countries of East and South-East Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2225) (E.03.II.F.7)

Recommendations on Methodologies of Monitoring Air Pollutant Emissions (ST/ESCAP/2227) (E.03.II.F.6)

Regional Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2289)

Water Resources Journal, December 2002 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/213); June 2003 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/214); December 2003 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/215)

Water Resources Series, No. 82, *Guidelines on Participatory Planning and Management for Flood Mitigation and Preparedness* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/82) (E.03.II.F.16); No. 83, *Guide to Preparing Urban Water-use Efficiency Plans* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/83) (E.03.II.F.35)

Information, communication and space technology

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal, vol. 15, December 2002 (E/ESCAP/2258)

Integration of Environmental and Quality Management Systems for Sustainable Development (ST/ESCAP/2246)

Regional Road Map towards an Information Society in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2283)

Strengthening Policy and Institutional Infrastructure in Information Technology: Study on Information Technology Needs Assessment and Readiness in the Greater Mekong Subregion (ST/ESCAP/2244)

Social development, including emerging social issues

Adolescent Substance Use: Risk and Protection (ST/ESCAP/2287) (E.03.II.F.65)

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 18, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2245) (E.03.II.F.99); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2260) (E.03.II.F.98); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2279) (E.03.II.F.97)

Asian Population Studies Series, No. 158, *Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: Selected Papers* (ST/ESCAP/2257) (E.03.II.F.27); No. 159, *Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: Report and Plan of Action on Population and Poverty* (ST/ESCAP/2264) (E.03.II.F.45); No. 160, *Migration*

Patterns and Policies in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2277) (E.03.II.F.56); No. 161, *Population and Development: Selected Issues* (ST/ESCAP/2288) (E.04.II.F.8)

Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Asia: Directory of Organizations (ST/ESCAP/2284) (E.03.II.F.59)

Combating Human Trafficking in Asia: A Resource Guide to International and Regional Legal Instruments, Political Commitments and Recommended Practices (ST/ESCAP/2293) (E.03.II.F.5)

Conflict Negotiation Skills for Youth (ST/ESCAP/2286) (E.03.II.F.50)

Economic and Social Progress in Jeopardy: HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific Region: Integrating Economic and Social Concerns, especially HIV/AIDS, in Meeting the Needs of the Region (ST/ESCAP/2251) (E.03.II.F.24)

Gender and Development Discussion Paper Series, No. 13, *Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals: Promoting Women's Capabilities and Participation;* No. 14, *Regional Overview of Social Protection of Informal Workers in Asia: Insecurities, Instruments and Institutional Arrangements*

Gender Indicators for Monitoring the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on Women in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/2294) (E.04.II.F.3)

Handbook on Reproductive Health Indicators (ST/ESCAP/2280) (E.03.II.F.62)

HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support: Stories from the Community (ST/ESCAP/2249) (E.03.II.F.25)

Life Skills Training Guide for Young People: HIV/AIDS and Substance Use Prevention (ST/ESCAP/2317)

Population Headliners, Nos. 292-297

Putting Gender Mainstreaming into Practice (ST/ESCAP/2254) (E.03.II.F.30)

Saving Our Future: Multiministerial Action Guide: HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2250) (E.03.II.F.26)

Social Action Update, vol. 3, Nos. 1-3

Social Policy Paper, No. 13, *Focus on Ability, Celebrate Diversity: Highlights of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002* (ST/ESCAP/2291) (E.04.II.F.7)

Young People – Partners in HIV/AIDS Prevention (ST/ESCAP/2301) (E.04.II.F.21)

B. List of meetings

Poverty and development

Governing Board of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific: twenty-first session, Bogor, Indonesia, January; extraordinary meeting, Bangkok, August; Technical Advisory Committee, twentieth session, Bangkok, January

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Information and Communication Technology for Rural Poverty Reduction: Developing National ICT Policies, Bangkok, January

National Workshops on Practical Applications of the Manual for Evaluating the Impact of Targeted Poverty Alleviation Programmes: Jakarta, March; Hyderabad, India, May

Second Meeting of the Advisory Panel on the ESCAP/UNDP Joint Initiative to Support the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, March

International Economic Conference on Tajikistan in the Regional Context of Central Asia, Dushanbe, April

National Workshops on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes: Islamabad, May; Dhaka, June

National Summit of Women Local Chief Executives and Legislators, Manila, May

Subregional Workshop on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes, Suva, June

National Seminars on Capacity-building for Managing Globalization: Tashkent and Almaty, Kazakhstan, June; Bishkek and Baku, August; Yerevan and Dushanbe, October

Seventh Meeting of the United Nations Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction and Food Security, Bangkok, July

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Mapping and Monitoring Using Information Technology, Bangkok, August

Regional Seminar on Capacity-building in Innovative Approaches to Local Government Management, Seoul, September

National Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors in Local Government, Bangkok, October

Meeting of Eminent Persons on Current and Prospective Economic and Social Performance in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, October

Expert Group Meeting on Marketing Green and Organic Agricultural Produce as a Tool for Rural Poverty Alleviation, Henan Province, China, October

Expert Group Meeting on Government Policies and Strategies on Information and Communication Technology for Rural Poverty Reduction in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, November

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December

Regional Workshop on Pro-poor and Sustainable Urban Water and Waste-water Management, Phitsanulok, Thailand, December

Statistics

ESCAP/UNIFEM Training Workshop on an Integrated Approach to Gender Statistics, Bangkok, January

ESCAP/SIAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, February

ESCAP/OECD Workshop on Composite Leading Indicators and Business Tendency Surveys, Bangkok, February

ESCAP/UNIFEM Workshop on Using Statistics for Gender-responsive Policy Analysis and Advocacy, Bangkok, March

ESCAP/United Nations Statistics Division Workshop on Trade Statistics for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing Countries, Bangkok, March

ESCAP/ADB Concluding Workshop on Enhancing Social and Gender Statistics, Bangkok, June

First ESCAP/ASEAN Task Force Workshop on Classifications, Bangkok, July

ESCAP/United Nations Statistics Division Final Evaluation Seminar on the Project on Strengthening Regional Capacities for Statistical Development in South-East Asia, Bangkok, August

Workshop on Improving Disability Data for Policy Use, Bangkok, September

United Nations Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications, New Delhi, October

Trade and investment

National Workshop on Promoting Business and Technology Incubation for Improved Competitiveness of Small and Medium Industries through Application of Modern and Efficient Technologies, Dhaka, January

Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Resource-based Export-oriented SMEs for Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, January

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Trade Agreements in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, January

WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda: fifth course, Bangkok, February; sixth course, Manila, November

Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum Core Group Meeting, Vientiane, March

Third WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices and Dispute Settlement Understanding Negotiations for Asian Economies, Ulaanbaatar, March

Training on Entrepreneurship Development for Women in the Greater Mekong Subregion Countries, Phnom Penh, March

Training Workshop on the New Round of Trade Talks: Issues Pertaining to Agriculture and Services, Bangkok, March

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement: nineteenth session, Bangkok, March; twentieth session, Bangkok, November

E-business Workshop for Myanmar Entrepreneurs under the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, Yangon, March

Meeting of Ambassadors of Bangkok Agreement Member Countries, Bangkok, March

Workshop on Human Resources Development for E-commerce and ICT Application for Business, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, March

Regional Round Table on Foreign Direct Investment for Central Asia, Dushanbe, April

ESCAP/Asian Clearing Union Technical Committee Meeting, Bangkok, April

Regional Training Workshop on Using Information Technology for Trade and Investment Promotion, Suva, May

Training Course on Managerial Economics for Lao Entrepreneurs under the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, Vientiane, May

High-level Regional Policy Dialogue on the WTO Negotiating Agenda in Preparation for Cancún, Bangkok, June

Regional Seminar on Facilitating the Accession of ESCAP Members to WTO through Regional Cooperation, Bangkok, June

Management Training Course on Attracting Foreign Investment to the Greater Mekong Subregion, Khon Kaen, Thailand, June

Training on Strengthening Chambers of Commerce under the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, Bangkok, July

WTO/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on Multilateral Negotiations on Agriculture, Bangkok, July

Tune-up Workshop on Building Science and Technology Infrastructure in the Tumen River Area, Jilin Province, China, July

Expert Group Meeting on Trade Facilitation and E-commerce, Bangkok, July

National Workshops on Development of Enabling Policies for Trade and Investment in the IT Sector of the Greater Mekong Subregion: Vientiane and Yangon, August; Hanoi, September; Phnom Penh, October; Kunming, China, November

Training Workshop on Enterprise Development, Appraisal and Management in Viet Nam, Ho Chi Minh City, August

Seminar on a Tariff and Trade Policy Framework, Colombo, August

National Training Workshops on Trade Finance Infrastructure Development: Ulaanbaatar, August; Tbilisi, October; Yerevan, November

Study Tour on Investment Promotion and Facilitation: Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Seoul, September

Seminar on Integration of Least Developed Countries into the BIMST-EC Free Trade Area, Bangkok, September

National Seminars on Building Science and Technology Infrastructure in the Tumen River Area: Ulaanbaatar, September; Vladivostok, Russian Federation; and Yanbian, China, October

Investment Study Mission of Foreign Chambers of Commerce to the North-South Economic Corridor under the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum: China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, September

Training on Entrepreneurship Development for Women in Myanmar, Yangon, September-October

Training Workshops on Investment Promotion and Facilitation: Danang, Hanoi and Phnom Penh, October; Vientiane, November; Dong Nai and Can Tho, Viet Nam, December

Fourth Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, Yangon, October

Trade Policy Training Course on WTO Agreements and Procedures, Almaty, Kazakhstan, October

ESCAP/ITU/WTO Regional Seminar on Telecommunications and Trade Issues, Bangkok, October

WTO/ESCAP/Ministry of Finance of China/Peking University Advanced Course for Asian and Pacific Senior Government Officials on the Doha Development Agenda Negotiations, Beijing, October-November

APCAEM Regional Seminar on Post-harvest Technology for Major Crops, Kunming, China, November

Workshop-cum-Steering Committee Meeting on a Study on Building Science and Technology Infrastructure in the Tumen River Area, Beijing, November

National Seminar on Building Capacity for Technology Transfer for Small and Medium Enterprises in Least Developed Countries: A Case in Nepal's Development, Kathmandu, November

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Post-Cancún Agenda for WTO Trade Liberalization and Its Implications for Developing Economies, Bangkok, November

Expert Group Meeting on Trade and Transport for the Committee on Managing Globalization, Bangkok, November

Technical Advisory Committee of APCAEM, second session, Beijing, November

Governing Board of APCAEM, second session, Beijing, November

Regional Seminar and Study Tour on Using Information Technology for Trade Promotion and Facilitation, Sydney, Australia, November

Transport and tourism

Second Specific Consultative Meeting on the Transit Transport Systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, January

Subregional Seminars on Transit Transport Issues of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries: South-East Asia, Vientiane, January; North-East Asia, Ulaanbaatar, March; Central Asia, Almaty, March; South Asia, Kathmandu, April

ESCAP/ADB Seminar on Facilitation of Cross-border Transport in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Vientiane, January

Regional Seminar on Liberalization of Maritime Transport Services under WTO GATS, Bangkok, February

Subregional Seminars on an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network: South-East Asia, Singapore, March; Central Asia and the Caucasus, Baku, March; North-East Asia, Ulaanbaatar, August; South Asia, New Delhi, October

Third Global Road Safety Partnership-ASEAN Seminar, Bangkok, March

Subregional Seminar on Liberalization of Maritime Transport Services under WTO GATS, Mumbai, India, March

National Conference on Maritime Transport Services under WTO GATS, Mumbai, India, March

Consultative Meeting on Public-private Partnership Units for Delivery of Basic Services, Bangkok, March

Seminar on Barrier-free Tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Hanoi, March

SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation, eighth session, Baku, March

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector, fourteenth meeting, Hanoi, March

ESCAP/WTO National Seminar on Sustainable Tourism Resource Management, Phnom Penh, June

Workshop on the Formulation of the Sustainable Urban Transport Project: Asia Work Plan, Bangkok, June

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Networking of Inland Water Transport and Dredging Institutions, Bangkok, July

Executive Committee of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT), eighth meeting, Kuala Lumpur, August

National Workshops on an Integrated International Transport and Logistics System for North-East Asia: Ulaanbaatar, August; Moscow, September; Seoul and Beijing, December

Seminar on Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Tourism Development, Kathmandu, August

Seminar on Crisis Management in Tourism, Lombok, Indonesia, September

National Seminars on Sustainable Tourism Development: Ulaanbaatar, September; Bishkek, October

Steering Committee on the Planning and Implementation of Container Block Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, second meeting, Ulaanbaatar, October

Second Regional Forum on Maritime Manpower Planning, Training Utilization and Networking of Centres of Excellence, Bangkok, October

Subregional Seminar on Integration of Inland Waterway Transport Infrastructure within Intermodal Transport Networks, Phnom Penh, November

Regional Meeting of Centres for Education, Training and Research in Transport Planning and Policy Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, November

Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, Bangkok, November

Regional Forum of Freight Forwarders and Multimodal Transport Operators, Bangkok, November

Regional Conference on Transport Facilitation and Trade Growth in Asia, Bangkok, November

Meeting on the ESCAP Asia-Pacific Road Accident Database, Vientiane, November

APETIT Conference on Tourism Education and Training in the Asia-Pacific Region: ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of APETIT; third meeting of the General Council of APETIT; Seminar on Tourism Education and Training in the Asia-Pacific Region, Colombo, December

Seminar on Bus Rapid Transit and Voluntary Travel Behaviour Change, Bangkok, December

Environment and sustainable development

Round-table Meeting on Water Resources Management in Cambodia: Vision to Action, Phnom Penh, January

World Climate Research Programme Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment Scientific Steering Group, fifteenth session, Bangkok, January

Kitakyushu Initiative Seminar on Urban Air Quality Management, Bangkok, February

Training on Emission Monitoring and Estimation in North-East Asia, Beijing, February

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, thirtieth session, Islamabad, March

SPECA Project on Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia: Expert Group Meeting, Bishkek, March; Project Working Group, Bishkek, eleventh session, April; twelfth session, July; thirteenth session, November

Inception Workshop on Pro-poor Public-private Partnerships for Water Supply Schemes in Sri Lanka, Colombo, April

Meeting of Senior Officials on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, Vladivostok, Russian Federation, April

Expert Round Table on Technical Cooperation and Financing of Energy Efficiency Projects, Vladivostok, Russian Federation, April

Subregional Workshop for South and South-West Asia on the Promotion of Public Awareness of Water Conservation, Tehran, May

Workshop on Strategic Environmental Planning, Apia, May

Workshops on Promoting Public Awareness of Water Conservation: Dili, May; Dushanbe, June

National Seminar on Rural Electrification and Public-private Partnerships, Jakarta, June

National Training Workshops on Strategic Planning and Management of the Energy Sector: Ulaanbaatar, June; Vientiane, July; Dhaka, Phnom Penh and Kathmandu, August; Ulaanbaatar, October; Vientiane and Kathmandu, November; Phnom Penh, December

ESCAP/FAO Round-table Workshop on National Water Vision to Action, Yangon, June

ESCAP/UNDP Expert Group Meeting on Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes, Bangkok, June

Working Group on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia, first meeting, Bangkok, July

National Workshop on Investment Promotion for Energy Efficiency Projects in the Industrial Sector, Jakarta, July

Kitakyushu Initiative Workshop on the Involvement of Stakeholders in the Improvement of Urban Air Quality, Surabaya, Indonesia, August

Round-table Discussion on an Institutional Mechanism for Developing and Financing Rural Electrification Projects, Jakarta, August

Expert Group Workshop for the State of the Environment Report in Asia and the Pacific 2003, Bangkok, September

Regional Workshop on the Provision of Water-related Services to the Poor, Pattaya, Thailand, September

Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Hydrological Component of the New Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan of the Typhoon Committee, Beijing, September

Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes: Review Meeting to Finalize the Guidelines, Bangkok, September

On-site Assessment Workshop on Capacity-building and Data Intercomparability for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in North-East Asia, Ulaanbaatar, September

Second On-site Workshop on Efficiency Improvement of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants, Ulaanbaatar, September

Training Workshop on Information Management for Disaster Reduction, Bangkok, October

National Training Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Water Resources, Ulaanbaatar, October

ESCAP/Colombo Plan Training Workshop on the Application of the Latest Decision-making Support Systems and Techniques in Water Resources Planning and Management, Bangkok, October

Workshop on Participatory Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for Community-based Disaster Risk Management, Manila, October

Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, Weihai, China, October

ESCAP/UNEP Training Workshop on Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Biodiversity and Natural Resources, Bangkok, October

Regional Implementation Meeting on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October

Regional Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October

Pre-session Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns for the Committee on Managing Globalization, Bangkok, November

Pilot Training on Solar Photovoltaic Project Development, Suva, November

Training Workshop on Integrating Sciences in Sustainable Development of Natural Resources and Poverty Alleviation in South Asia, Colombo, November

ESCAP/WMO Workshop on Support to the Implementation of the Project on the ASEAN Regional Haze Action Plan, Singapore, December

National Workshop on the Strategic Plan for Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management, Vientiane, December

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, thirty-sixth session, Kuala Lumpur, December

Regional Workshop to Exchange Experiences on Strategic Planning and Management of the Energy Sector, Phitsanulok, Thailand, December

National Workshops on the Application of the Guidelines on the Provision of Water-related Services to the Poor: Phnom Penh and Vientiane, December

Information, communication and space technology

Asian Regional Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society, Tokyo, January

National Seminars on Integration of Environmental Management and Quality Management Systems in the ESCAP Region: Dhaka, January; Bangkok, March

Regional Conference on a Digital Greater Mekong Subregion: Closing Gaps in the Digital Divide, Pathum Thani, Thailand, February

Meeting on Cooperation on Satellite Broadband Services and Applications for the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, March

ESCAP/ITU/Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Regional Inter-agency Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies, fourth meeting, Bangkok, March; fifth meeting, Bangkok, August

First Conference of Ministers on Information and Broadcasting in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, May

ESCAP/International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Workshop on Global Environmental Databases: Adaptation to Meet Current and Future Needs, Bangkok, June

ESCAP/ITU/Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Expert Group Meeting on a Regional Road Map towards an Information Society in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, August

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Policies for the Promotion and Integration of Space Applications for Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, August

Fourth Meeting of the Dialogue Forum on Regional Initiatives for Space Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, August

Regional Working Group on Space Science and Technology Applications, eighth meeting, Hanoi, August

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, eighth meeting, Bangkok, September

Regional Workshop on Integration of Environmental and Quality Management Systems in the ESCAP Region, New Delhi, September

Regional Seminar on Information Technology-enabling Legal Frameworks for the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, September-October

Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Assessment of Crops in Support of Sustainable Natural Resources Development and Poverty Alleviation, Beijing, October

Regional Workshop on Integrated Management of Land and Water Resources in Arid Areas Using Space Technology, Beijing, October

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications, eighth meeting, Beijing, October

Pre-session Expert Group Meeting for the Committee on Managing Globalization: Regional Cooperation for Bridging the Digital Divide, Bangkok, November

Regional Seminar on Enabling Policies and Regulatory Frameworks for Information and Communication Technology Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, December

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, ninth meeting, Kuala Lumpur, December

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme, ninth session, Kuala Lumpur, December

Asia-Pacific Workshop on Promotion of Stakeholders' Partnership for Training in Information and Communication Technology, Seoul, December

Social development, including emerging social issues

Meeting of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Research Training on Population Ageing in the Developing Countries of Asia, Bangkok, January

ESCAP National HRD Courses on Psychosocial and Medical Services for Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth: Kunming, China, and Vientiane, February; Phnom Penh, March; Colombo, December

Regional Training of Trainers Course on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, February-March

Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, Bangkok, February and July

Training Workshops for Youth Peer Educators on Life Skills, HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse Prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health: Birgunj, Nepal, February-March; Dhaka, April-May; New Delhi, August; Beijing, September; Phnom Penh, October

ESCAP Training on the Human Dignity Initiative: Community-based Safety Nets as Tools for Human Development: Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, March; Phnom Penh, March-April; Yogjakarta, Indonesia, and Vientiane, June; Chiang Mai, Thailand, June-July

Asia-Pacific Women's Electronic Network Training Workshops and Trainers' Clinics: Manila, March; Seoul, October

Regional Workshop on Monitoring the East Asia and Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Bangkok, March

International Workshop on Raising Disability Awareness of Public Administration Personnel to Promote Disabled Persons' Inclusion in the Development Process, Bangkok, March

Expert Group Meeting and Seminar on an International Convention to Protect and Promote the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, June

Thematic Working Group on Disability-related Concerns, sixth meeting, Bangkok, June; seventh meeting, Bangkok, December

Training Workshops for Youth Peer Educators: Focus on HIV/AIDS Prevention: Bangkok and Vientiane, July

Inception Workshop for the ESCAP Project on Providing Basic Services to the Poor through Public-private Partnership: ESCAP Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Bangkok, July

Regional Workshop on Web-based Networking, Bangkok, July-August

Workshop on Women and Disability: Promoting Full Participation of Women with Disabilities in the Process of the Elaboration of an International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, August; follow-up workshop, Bangkok, October

Forum on ICTs and Gender: Optimizing Opportunities, Kuala Lumpur, August

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Development, Bangkok, August

Workshop on Social Protection Schemes for Women in the Informal Sector, Bangkok, September

Pacific Regional Workshop on Combating Poverty and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, Nadi, Fiji, September

Expert Group Meeting on Assessing Regional Implementation of Commitments from the World Summit for Social Development, Bangkok, September

Youth Forum on APEC 2003, Bangkok, October

Regional Workshop towards a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, October

Training Clinic on Integrating Youth Health Concerns into Non-formal Education: Focus on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Asia, Lijiang, China, October

Regional Workshop on Promoting Youth Human Resources Development through Distance Education: Prevention of Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS, Lijiang, China, October-November

Workshop on Poverty Alleviation and Conflict-negotiating Skills for Youth, Colombo, November

Regional Seminar on an International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Beijing, November

Intercountry Exchange Programme on Successful Practices in Empowering Older Persons, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November

Refresher Training of Trainers Course on Conflict-negotiation Skills for Youth, Phnom Penh, November

Regional Meeting of National Machineries for Gender Equality in the Asian and Pacific Region: Towards a Forward-looking Agenda, Seoul, November

Inception Workshop on the Project on Promoting Investment in Health for Development, Bangkok, November

Training Workshop on Population, Development and Poverty, Bangkok, November

Subregional Course on Development and Delivery of Drug Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Programmes for Youth, Bangkok, November

Subregional Training Workshop on the Elimination of Violence against Women in Partnership with Men, New Delhi, December

Community Development Plan Workshop, Bangkok, December

Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Regional Planning on Subregional Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children, Bangkok, December

C. List of advisory services

Poverty reduction

Poverty and development

Fiji: (a) to provide advice on a strategic plan for the Ministry of National Reconciliation and Unity 2003-2005; (b) to assist in the final work with the Prices and Income Board on the formulation of its corporate plan; (c) to participate in the official launching of the "white paper on urban development policy in the Republic of Fiji" and a panel discussion; and (d) to assist UN-HABITAT in preparing the budget of its future office in Fiji and in formulating the activities of the person in charge

Kyrgyzstan: (a) to advise the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on poverty alleviation policy planning and development; and (b) to discuss the projects on income and employment, capacity-building for managing globalization and ICT and rural poverty reduction

Malaysia: (a) to discuss ESCAP/Malaysian cooperation with the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department; and (b) to explore means of enhancing cooperation in the field of poverty reduction

Marshall Islands, to assist the Ebeye Municipal Council in formulating the corporate plan of the Kwajalein local government

Philippines: (a) to assist the Office of the President of the Philippines in the area of poverty alleviation through review of the Gawad Kalinga programme; and (b) to explore the possibilities of a debt-for-poverty swap for the Philippines, including the use of a Gawad Kalinga component

Solomon Islands, to assist the Honiara City Council in formulating its corporate plan

Sri Lanka: (a) to assist the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Samurdhi Ministry in reviewing poverty alleviation and social welfare programmes; and (b) to provide recommendations on enhancing their efficacy and impact

Tajikistan, to provide advisory services to the Office of the State Adviser to the President to review the system for monitoring and evaluating the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme and proposals for improving it, including resource mobilization

Thailand: (a) to assist the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration by organizing a training workshop; (b) to undertake a study visit of the vocational schools and occupational training centre of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration; and (c) to provide the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with services in planning aimed at assisting coastal communities in the development of marine-based resources for poverty alleviation

Statistics

Afghanistan: (a) to advise the Central Statistics Office and the Ministry of Women's Affairs on the poverty, gender and economic issues in census and survey statistics; and (b) to assist in the preparation of a master plan for technical cooperation in statistics

Armenia, to act as a resource person for a country course/workshop on web design

Cambodia: (a) to advise the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning; (b) to review the country practice and methodologies in economic statistics and evaluate the country's needs in this area; and (c) to conduct training on the use of CSPro for the data processing of the Cambodia Intercensal Population Survey

Myanmar: (a) to conduct a preliminary assessment mission for the Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development; (b) to organize training for the Health Information Section, Department of Health Planning of the Ministry of Health, and to assist in developing a data entry system for the household sub-survey; and (c) to assist the Department of Population, Ministry of Migration and Population, in developing a further tabulation system for the Family and Reproductive Health Survey 2001

Pakistan, to advise the Federal Bureau of Statistics on economic statistics

Sri Lanka, to assist the Department of Census and Statistics in building capacity in web site development

Thailand: (a) to advise the National Statistical Office on the poverty line, poverty mapping and gender statistics; (b) to assist the Office in formulating workshops on poverty data and on gender in statistics; (c) to prepare for the workshops on poverty and gender in poverty organized by the Office in collaboration with ESCAP and the National Institute of Development Administration; and (d) to make presentations at those workshops

Timor-Leste: (a) to attend and make a presentation at the workshop on the national human development report at the invitation of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and UNDP; and (b) to advise the National Statistical Office on poverty data

Managing globalization

Trade and investment

Bhutan, to advise the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the business community on WTO and related trade issues

Cook Islands, to hold discussions with officials of the Ministry of Labour, Commerce, Employment and Trade and other relevant government agencies, including the Cook Islands Development Investment Board, on matters relating to trade agreements and export prospects for Cook Islands

Philippines, to brief the Philippine Trade Training Center, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Philippine business community on current developments in WTO and the prospects for the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference and advise on follow-up activities

Tonga, to brief and advise the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries and relevant agencies on developments relating to the WTO Doha Development Agenda and the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference

Environment and sustainable development

Afghanistan, to provide technical advisory services on environmental management

Cambodia, to advise the Ministry of Environment on climate change activities, including a presentation on the guidelines for the preparation of the second national communication, the establishment of a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme and the identification of priority project concepts for the further development of GEF funding

Indonesia, to provide follow-up advisory services to the Ministry of Environment on issues related to the second national communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Clean Development Mechanism

Kazakhstan: (a) to advise on issues related to environmental monitoring, environmental management and sustainable development, including environmental law and the establishment of a national sustainable development commission; and (b) to conduct a joint ESCAP/UNEP/UNDP workshop on environmental policy, law and sustainable development

Uzbekistan: (a) to review and revise the draft second national communication project proposal prepared by the country team and advise the focal point of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the new GEF operational programme on sustainable land management; and (b) to provide assistance with budget preparations for the second national communication

Viet Nam, to advise the National Office for Climate Change and Ozone Protection, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, on issues related to climate change

Information, communication and space technology

Mongolia, to advise the Ministry of Infrastructure on the ICT industry

Emerging social issues

Social development, including emerging social issues

Cook Islands: (a) to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs in developing a draft national policy on disability and a national plan of action to implement the disability policy; and (b) to follow up on the technical assistance related to the Cook Islands disability policy

Fiji, to prepare for and attend a regional workshop on combating poverty and the sexual exploitation of children and youth

Papua New Guinea, to carry out a scoping mission on urban development, HIV and related social development issues for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tuvalu, to advise the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development on phase I of a squatter settlement assessment for Funafuti

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Georgia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(*a*) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(*b*) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(*c*) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(*a*) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(*b*) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(*c*) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(*d*) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(*e*) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(*f*) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(*a*) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(*b*) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule *6(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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